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Security Council

Fifty-sixth year

Provisional

4359th meeting

Tuesday, 28 August 2001, 10.30 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Valdivieso	(Colombia)
Members:	Bangladesh	Mr. Chowdhury
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Ireland	Mr. Corr
	Jamaica	Mr. Ward
	Mali	Mr. Touré
	Mauritius	Mr. Koonjul
	Norway	Mr. Strømmen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Singapore	Mr. Mahbubani
	Tunisia	Mr. Jerandi
	Ukraine	Mr. Krokhmal
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Hume

Agenda

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999).

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01-52198 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

The President *(spoke in Spanish)*: I would like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Belgium, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Sahovic (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) took a seat at the Council table; Mr. De Ruyt (Belgium) and Mr. Kerim (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) took the seats reserved for him at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President *(spoke in Spanish)*: In the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Guéhenno to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting the Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

I now give the floor to Mr. Guéhenno.

Mr. Guéhenno: I am pleased to brief members of the Security Council on developments in Kosovo since the last briefing on 26 July 2001.

I will focus today on outlining developments in the main priority areas: preparations for Kosovo-wide elections and the transfer to provisional self-government; engagement of the minority communities and implementation of confidence-building measures to bridge the divide between communities; and efforts to improve law and order.

First, as regards the implementation of the Constitutional Framework, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) is now finalizing the structure of the institutions of provisional self-government, in which the departments of the current Joint Interim Administrative Structure will be streamlined into a more manageable number of ministries. In order to build political consensus on the future structures, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General has consulted the local leadership, who have expressed general support for a reduced number of ministries. In order to gain acceptance and understanding of provisional self-government among the local population, more than 300,000 booklets explaining the Constitutional Framework have now been distributed in Albanian and Serbian, and a Turkish translation is in preparation.

Alongside preparations at the central level, the consolidation of municipal structures continues, with further efforts to devolve authority to municipalities in various sectors as specified in UNMIK regulation 45/2000 on municipal self-government, in order to build democratic-governance capacity. Parallel with the devolution of authority, however, has been an increasing tendency on the part of the municipal assemblies to challenge UNMIK's authority in several areas, such as public utilities and socially owned property.

Regarding preparations for the general elections, UNMIK is currently in the midst of voter registration, which began on 30 July and will run until 8 September. Voter registration covers four categories: those who chose not to register last year; returnees and other new civil registrants since the municipal elections; registrants from the 2000 municipal elections who need to correct or amend their information, or who need to be reassigned to new, smaller polling stations; and lastly, out-of Kosovo registrants. Voter registration runs

alongside the ongoing civil registration process, in the course of which some 700,000 identity cards have so far been issued to the local population.

As of 24 August, the total number of people within Kosovo processed by voter service centres was 39,265. Of these, 4,937 are from communities which chose not to register last year — mainly Kosovo Serbs. In Serbia proper, a total of 25,351 people have registered, and 494 have registered in Montenegro. In Vienna, the International Organization for Migration has received a total of 27,848 mail-in applications.

Given that we are more than half way through the voter registration period, these figures, particularly for the Kosovo Serb community, are disappointingly low. The institution-building pillar is, subsequently, increasing its public information campaign and drawing on members of municipal election committees and local village leaders to help encourage not only registration, but also participation when the election takes place.

Despite the fact that several Serb leaders have endorsed registration, including Mr. Covic, Mr. Trajkovic and Bishop Artemije of the Serb National Council-Gracanica — the latter two also having registered themselves — the majority of the Kosovo Serb community, both inside and outside Kosovo, seemed to be waiting for an unequivocal signal from Belgrade. Since over the weekend both President Kostunica and Prime Minister Djindjic called on Kosovo Serbs to register, we hope that now Kosovo Serbs will register in greater numbers. With time running out, we call again on the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to fully support the efforts of UNMIK to have as many Kosovo Serbs register as possible, and to encourage them to participate in the elections.

Last month we informed the Council that five Kosovo Serb parties had applied for party certification. It transpires that these parties only submitted partial applications and were requested to provide full details for certification. As of now, none of these five parties has submitted the full certification package. Indeed, some have indicated that they will not do so until there is an agreement to run a unified Democratic Opposition of Serbia (DOS) list in the elections. In order to accommodate eventual certification later, the institution-building pillar has extended the deadline for coalitions to certify for the elections. But again, there is not much time left.

We endorse the message that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General gave to Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Covic, who was recently appointed as head of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia/Serbian joint coordination centre. In that message, given two weeks ago during their first meeting together, the Special Representative underlined the necessity that the Kosovo Serb community buy into the electoral process in order to consolidate the basis for an acceptable security environment and living conditions.

I would like now to touch upon the engagement of Kosovo minority communities and relations with Belgrade. There has been progress in several areas of mutual concern to UNMIK and to the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, primarily on the issue of missing persons and returns. On the missing persons issue, there is now an enhanced programme of visits to grave sites, both in Kosovo and Serbia proper; an exchange of photographic and other information relevant to post-mortem verification work; the composition of a joint consolidated list of missing Kosovo Serbs; and protocols for the repatriation of identified remains. One of the first results achieved by the Contact Group on Detainees and Missing Persons was UNMIK's 15 August return to Yugoslav authorities of the mortal remains of a Kosovo Serb woman.

With regard to returns, there was an initial organized return under a security escort provided by the Kosovo Force (KFOR) on 13 August, of 54 Kosovo Serbs to the Osojane Valley, in the Pec region. That was followed by the return of a further 30 persons on 22 August. The Osojane site is one of the 10 locations identified in 2001 by the action plan of the Joint Committee on Returns for Kosovo Serbs. The return took place without incident, apart from a protest staged by Kosovo Albanians in Istok on 23 August.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is providing temporary shelter and basic needs while the returnees reconstruct their houses with the aid of funding from the European Agency for Reconstruction and bilateral donors. In order to aid the reintegration of the Kosovo Serb community in Osojane, additional funding will be channelled to nearby Kosovo Albanian and Roma communities.

By concretely supporting the issues of missing persons and returns, UNMIK is addressing two of the five main concerns that were outlined by President Kostunica during the meeting with the Security Council mission last June. The third one, normalization of the tax-collection mechanism in northern Kosovo, is being settled satisfactorily. The two remaining points raised by President Kostunica are more difficult to address. Cooperation in education and police matters has to be handled carefully so as to take account of legitimate Kosovo Serb interests while, at the same time, safeguarding the integrity of UNMIK's transitional administration.

Relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have generally improved over the past month. An important step forward was made on 15 August with the meeting between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Commander of KFOR and Mr. Covic. The Special Representative clearly reiterated the need to implement Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) in all of Kosovo, and in particular to ensure that no parallel security and administrative structures are in place, especially in Mitrovica and northern Kosovo. Together with KFOR, and through the UNMIK Belgrade office, the Mission is exploring administrative ways and means to improve working relations with the joint coordination centre. At the meeting, both parties agreed to meet regularly — a commitment that has already materialized with the holding, on 21 August, of a second, very constructive meeting, which took place near Pristina.

(*spoke in French*)

I would now like to take up issues relating to security and law and order.

On 16 August, Mr. Jean-Christian Cady took up his functions as Deputy Special Representative for Police and Justice. Under his leadership, efforts will continue to strengthen law and order, including completing a package of legislation to tackle organized crime. Work has also begun to improve conditions at a witness protection location. In addition, a witness protection director has been appointed. Progress has also been made on creating a specialized office to combat organized crime. That office is scheduled to open on 1 September.

Following a number of politically motivated criminal incidents, the Political Violence Task Force, which was established in the run-up to the 2000 municipal elections, has been reactivated to provide a multi-agency, coordinated response to politically motivated crimes, a response involving all the relevant bodies. The most serious of those incidents in recent days was the attempted assassination of a politician from the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) in Srbica, in the Mitrovica region.

The Department of Justice is proceeding with the so-called quick-build detention facility, that is, a temporary prison that is quickly set up. In addition to that project, it is also proceeding with the refurbishment of the war-damaged Dubrava prison. The two projects will require six to 12 months properly to complete, as well as an increased number of international staff to manage them. There are two urgent priorities that depend on our ability to recruit staff with the requisite expertise. I am referring to the development of an effective framework for parole and probation services, as well as the provision of qualified staff to address the needs of mentally ill inmates requiring psychiatric services.

Efforts continue to build further the capacity of the Kosovo Police Service (KPS), and to develop an adequate rank system within the KPS. Two senior command courses have now been completed at the Kosovo Police Service School, which is run by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). As a result, a total of 32 senior commanders have now been trained to serve in Kosovo.

I would also like during this briefing to touch upon matters relating to the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Council members are undoubtedly aware of the letters addressed to the Secretary-General from the President, the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. A copy of the Secretary-General's response to President Trajkovski has been circulated to Council members. As that response indicates, UNMIK and KFOR remain fully committed to countering Albanian extremism and to restoring normal security conditions. UNMIK will continue to support KFOR in its efforts to sever any possible ties that may develop between radical elements in Kosovo and the self-appointed National Liberation Army that operates in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

KFOR is supervising the activities of the Kosovo Protection Corps, known as the KPC. It reports that there is no evidence that the KPC as such has been involved in the recent incidents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. When individual members of the KPC are found to be involved in criminal activities, they are immediately subject to disciplinary measures, which may include dismissal, and they are liable to criminal prosecution. I believe that yesterday one member of the KPC was subjected to this process.

Since March KFOR has increased its presence at the border of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania. It has conducted a Kosovo-wide operation to seize weapons and seek out those suspected of being members of armed groups. In this connection, I have some figures that have been communicated to us by KFOR that I would like to share with you. KFOR reports that since 31 May over 600 individuals have been detained and over 600 rifles, 1,400 grenades, 1,000 anti-tank weapons and 139,000 rounds of ammunition have been seized throughout Kosovo, mainly in the border area. Where KFOR has detained individuals, and where sufficient evidence of criminal activity exists, UNMIK is committed to investigating and prosecuting these cases to the fullest extent of the applicable law in Kosovo.

UNMIK is greatly concerned at the continuing closure of the border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a result of road blockades inside the country. The border closure not only affects the Mission's ability to support its operations in optimum conditions, but it also has negative long-term consequences for the Kosovo economy.

I would like to say a few words about the economy of Kosovo. This border closure is coming at a time when tax collection mechanisms, especially in northern Kosovo, had finally been accepted. Two hundred seventy Kosovo Serbs had applied for the 17 vacancies in the UNMIK tax collection and customs service. This should improve the tax resources collected through UNMIK. Total revenue collected so far by UNMIK passed the 200 million deutsche mark level just before the end of July. This is more than twice the amount of revenue raised in the same period last year, so obviously this means considerable progress has been achieved.

There are ongoing efforts to attract investment to Kosovo and to foster economic activities, in particular through the commercialization of companies. Nine, to date, have undergone this process. As a result of these various measures, there has been a 180 per cent growth in jobs in the industries involved, which is not a negligible amount. Commercialization has engendered extra investment and has also led to progress in the banking sector. The banking and payments authority of Kosovo has approved two new branches for the new Bank of Kosovo. Significant progress is reported in the transport sector as well. In July alone 115,000 passengers were processed by the Pristina airport, contributing as well to Kosovo's revenue collection. The passenger train running between Pristina and Pec is now a regular service. A train tunnel was opened in northern Kosovo, which might in the future make it possible to connect Kosovo with Serbia proper.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the note of cautious optimism sounded during the last briefing to the Council at the end of July has been tempered recently by the figures that I gave you a moment ago regarding the voter registration by Kosovo Serbs. We wish those figures were a lot higher. But it is hoped that the clear signals that have come from Belgrade will help to reverse this currently unsatisfactory trend in terms of pre-election registration. Progress has been made in several areas of mutual concern to all the communities. I am thinking, for instance, of missing persons and returnees.

But we must recognize that it would be unrealistic to expect major developments in a very short time. The situation in Kosovo can only change progressively. Tolerance and respect for others take time. They are not developed overnight. They can come about only through the participation of all in forming Kosovo's future. That is why again we renew our appeal for massive voter registration within the communities concerned and call upon those communities to participate in the elections.

The President *(spoke in Spanish)*: I would like to thank Mr. Guéhenno for his comprehensive briefing.

Mr. Hume (United States): I too would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno for his detailed briefing on the progress of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in implementing resolution 1244 (1999). We commend the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Hans Haekkerup, for addressing some of the more

complicated issues in the process of establishing provisional interim self-government in Kosovo.

At this time the upcoming elections are the top priority, one that has the full support of my Government. We support UNMIK's efforts to streamline Kosovo's administrative bureaucracy as it transfers authority to a democratically elected government, as outlined in a legal, constitutional framework.

Political changes over the last year have opened the door to UNMIK to strengthen its relations with the Serb community and to reassure Kosovo Serbs about their rightful place in a democratic Kosovo. Kosovo Serbs have begun to register for November's elections.

I would like to second the comments of the Under-Secretary-General in stressing the importance of progress on Serb returns and continued minority interest in Kosovo, as well as their full participation in the elections. The Yugoslav Government has helped encourage this process by expressing in the clearest terms its own support for resolution 1244 (1999). UNMIK should continue its constructive dialogue with Belgrade. We welcome the appointment of Deputy Prime Minister Covic as the new chairman of the coordination centre for Kosovo, and we fully support Special Representative Haekkerup's efforts to build a constructive relationship with Belgrade.

Council members were encouraged by their discussions in Belgrade during their visit there in June. I would like to reiterate my own Government's encouragement to UNMIK to address fully the five priority areas of the Yugoslav Government with regard to Kosovo, which President Kostunica outlined during the June visit. I am also pleased by the progress that has been registered today, as already explained to us.

During the June visit the Council also discussed with Foreign Minister Svilanovic resolution 1160 (1998), and I would like to note my Government's full support for the lifting of the arms embargo at this time.

Public security and the rule of law continue to be at the top of UNMIK's priorities. New regulations on border control, on extremism and on the illegal possession of weapons give UNMIK and KFOR valuable tools for combating violence and preventing its spread beyond Kosovo's borders. We understand that UNMIK has made progress on another series of regulations against organized crime, and we hope they will shortly become law. UNMIK must also continue its efforts to strengthen the judiciary and increase the number of international judges and prosecutors. We applaud the recent appointment of Jean-Christian Cady as the head of the new law and justice pillar, and we look forward to the appointment of a highly qualified individual to head UNMIK's department of judicial affairs. We also applaud KFOR for making full use of these authorities by seizing weapons shipments and detaining individuals who present a threat to peace and order in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as in Kosovo. The border interdiction mission should be one of KFOR's and UNMIK's highest priorities. In that regard, NATO's operation "Essential Harvest" will complement KFOR's operations in Kosovo and will address the same problem from the other side of the border.

My Government has worked on numerous fronts to reduce violence in Kosovo. President Bush has issued executive orders to stop individuals in the United States from supporting any violent groups in Kosovo, and to deny entry into the United States of suspected extremists. We have supported more rigorous controls on the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) and provided assistance to improve the KPC's internal controls. We have encouraged Kosovo's leaders to speak out against violence and to support the Framework Agreement recently signed in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The United States Government will continue to support UNMIK and KFOR in their efforts to fully implement resolution 1244 (1999) and to ensure that democracy and the rule of law are the foundation for Kosovo's future.

Mr. Lavrov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful to Mr. Guéhenno for his briefing on the situation in Kosovo and aspects relating to the situation in other parts of the region, particularly in Macedonia.

I would first like to comment on the main part of his briefing, namely, preparations for the elections in Kosovo. This is one of the most important questions, and although some progress has been made in this process leading up to the elections, we must say that on the whole the situation does not encourage optimism.

As is known, in the registration of members of the Serbian and other non-Albanian communities in the province by 17 August, three months before elections are to be held, just over 2,000 people have been

registered among the Serb, Gypsy, Turk and other minorities. Two thousand people in all: this figure speaks for itself.

The reasons for this situation — and this is not the first year we have been talking about them — include the fact that the security problem in Kosovo is not being duly resolved. The return of refugees is not being guaranteed, and the numbers Mr. Guéhenno gave us on organized returns are paltry. Security is not guaranteed, nor is freedom of movement for the minorities in the province. All of this is well known. Unless these conditions are guaranteed, it is hard to talk about any real democratic electoral process.

The conducting of the elections in these conditions in November of this year could lead to an increase in Kosovo separatism. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and KFOR must robustly increase their activities in order to resolve the security problem there, the problem of returns and freedom of movement; they must do this well ahead of the elections.

We can say that the main thing is that the Government of Yugoslavia has unambiguously called upon the Kosovo Serbs to participate in the elections. But to expect that this is going to resolve all the problems is naïve, to put it mildly. We note that the United Nations Mission is taking certain steps to establish dialogue with the Government of Yugoslavia. But these steps are obviously not enough.

At the same time, the head of UNMIK is taking other decisions that are creating additional irritation in relations between UNMIK and Belgrade. I am referring in particular to the creation of tax collection posts on the administrative border with Serbia. And I refer to the imposition of the 96-hour notification regime for travel to Kosovo by officials from Yugoslavia. We are troubled that UNMIK has not managed to establish normal relations yet with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Committee on Kosovo. We share the hopes of many regarding the appointment of Mr. Covic as leader of the coordination centre of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and of Serbia on Kosovo. However, it is clear that this appointment, in and of itself, cannot resolve all the serious problems remaining.

Ultimately, the main guarantee of success is the scrupulous and comprehensive compliance of all with resolution 1244 (1999). This is possible only if there is proper cooperation between UNMIK and Belgrade. I would add that all participants in the process of the settlement must show as much responsibility as possible.

In this connection, the decision taken by the head of the mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) does not add any optimism that they are able to certify for participation in the elections the extremist party known as the National Movement of Kosovo. Clearly that is a mistake, and that mistake has to be redressed. Otherwise, we might get the impression that the OSCE was officially recognizing the legitimacy of a structure that represents Albanian extremists, and that the OSCE was actually trying to encourage such structures.

The situation in Kosovo — and this point has been made before by Mr. Guéhenno and Ambassador Hume — cannot be seen in isolation of the situation in the region as a whole. It is clear to all that there is a link between the conflict in Macedonia and the situation in Kosovo, since Kosovo has basically become a rear base for Albanian armed groups in Macedonia. All this sheds stark light on the failure to find a solution to the problem of disarming Kosovo militants and eliminating their illegal armed formations. We are convinced that the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) must take additional robust steps in this area.

We have no doubt that it is still important to halt the spillover of extremists from one part of the region to another and their use of various covers to conceal their terrorist activities. To cite just one example, on 13 August, Russian KFOR troops arrested two Kosovo Albanians in the region of Kosovska Kamenica on the administrative border with Serbia. One of those detained had an automatic weapon, ammunition, a bullet-proof vest and a National Liberation Army (NLA) uniform. He confessed that he was part of the 111th company of the NLA brigade, which had conducted battle activities in Macedonia in the Aracinovo region. This June, he was one of the militants allowed to leave the buses that were being blocked by the Macedonians in the Aracinovo region. Now he had turned up in Kosovo on the administrative border with Serbia with his weapons and his uniform. That is just one example that shows that the problem is still there. It has to be resolved.

We know that during the operation that has just started in Macedonia, the NLA is supposed to be handing over the weapons that its militants possess. Those who are carrying out operation Essential Harvest have to be sure not to repeat the unfortunate experience of Kosovo, in which it was ceremoniously proclaimed that the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) had been disarmed, stripped of its uniforms and disbanded. But in fact, it turned out, of course, that the KLA retained its organizational structures, its weapons, its access to new arms deliveries and its ability to destabilize various parts of the Balkan region.

Talking about Macedonia and about the current operation there, I would add that we are disquieted by information we are receiving about efforts to create in Macedonia another army — an Albanian national army — which is trying to unite under its banner the most militant fighters and to retain a battle-ready core of extremists. That cannot be allowed. We have repeatedly stated that we are in favour of lifting the arms embargo imposed by resolution 1160 (1998) against the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and we support the appeal by Ambassador Hume to resolve this question as soon as possible. While reaffirming that position, we think it necessary to stress once again also that the international presences in Kosovo will have to take very decisive action to cut off any possible flows of weapons destined for Kosovo Albanian terrorist groups, because the military embargo with regard to these groups must remain in full force.

All this is necessary in order to cut off the channels of financial and material assistance from the territory of Kosovo to extremism, terrorism and separatism in the Balkans. We are convinced that the lasting settlement of the Kosovo Macedonian pockets of tension in the region is possible only in a general Balkan context, and that that goal should be promoted by the implementation of the Russian initiative: to conclude a legally binding agreement to strengthen the security and the sovereignty of all countries of the region, and to that end to convene a Balkan summit, with international participation. We believe that that Russian proposal remains relevant.

Mr. Jerandi (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): I too would like to thank Mr. Guéhenno for his enlightening briefing about developments in Kosovo. My delegation pays tribute to him and to his entire team for their efforts to keep Council members informed about the vicissitudes being encountered by this region and others.

At a time when the international community is closely following developments in the Balkans, and more specifically the general elections that will be held on 17 November 2001 in Kosovo, my delegation welcomes the good conditions in which the preparations for the elections are being carried out. We are also pleased to note the positive and productive attitude adopted by all parties concerned. This attitude guarantees broad participation by all ethnic components of Kosovo and points to the success of the entire electoral operation.

We welcome the decision here taken by Kosovo Serb political parties to participate in the elections. We are convinced that this wise decision, which we have constantly encouraged, will have an important impact on the future of the province, in general, and on the participation of ethnic minorities in the new political structures that will emerge from the elections, in particular. The goal for those new political structures is that they be representative and that they guarantee the right of all inhabitants of Kosovo to safety and security, respect for differences and participation in healthy public life. Clearly, the priority of these new political structures is to banish hatred and attitudes based on ethnic considerations and to promote peaceful coexistence. Broad participation in the electoral process will ensure its success and will give it the necessary legitimacy. We encourage the continuation of contacts by the Kosovo Force (KFOR) leadership with the Belgrade authorities in order to bring about better coordination in the lead up to the elections.

My delegation once again reiterates its disquiet at ongoing acts of violence. We deplore this attitude, whose main victims are civilians. We think that the approach of the elections is creating a climate of tension, for which we need to prepare. Increased vigilance is necessary with a view to addressing any possible violence. In our view, such violence is based on the absence of trust that still prevails among ethnic communities. That trust can be restored, in particular, by eliminating pockets of tension and by strengthening confidence-building measures among the inhabitants of Kosovo. We welcome the signing of the new United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) regulation 2001/17, which is intended to establish rules on the sale of properties in mixed neighbourhoods in order to be sure that transactions

involving minority properties are valid in those multi-ethnic areas, and thus to safeguard the multi-ethnic nature of the province.

The question of refugees and displaced persons remains a major source of concern. We think it is essential to speed up the return of refugees and displaced persons and to guarantee them optimal security conditions, particularly in areas where they are minorities. Once they have gone home, refugees must be able to return to their homes, and their rights must be restored. Furthermore, we believe that as winter approaches, UNMIK should be prepared to give them the best possible living conditions.

It is essential to deal with the question of prisoners and missing persons with due dispatch and preferably before the elections. The search for solutions to the humanitarian aspects of the Kosovo question will go a long way to help promote reconciliation among the various ethnic communities.

My delegation is pleased at the economic progress made in recent months in Kosovo. I saw for myself, during the visit of Security Council members to Kosovo, this new economic spirit, which we encourage and which should be maintained.

Moving from emergency rebuilding to a new phase of economic reform is healthy for Kosovo and the entire Balkan region. We are convinced that the positive impact of these decisions will be felt very quickly.

Mr. Krokhmal (Ukraine): I should like to thank Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno for his briefing, which provided a useful update on the situation in and around Kosovo and the activities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

The first issue on which I would like to focus is the ongoing preparations for the Kosovo-wide elections to be held in November. We are pleased to note some positive developments in that process. However, we recognize that there are a number of challenges ahead.

We strongly believe that the full participation of all communities in the political process is essential to ensure democratic, transparent and fair elections and to regain stability in multi-ethnic Kosovo. In this regard we welcome the continued contacts by the head of the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo, Mr. Haekkerup, with Serbian leaders towards encouraging Kosovo Serbs to participate in the province's elections.

Against this background, we are gravely concerned by reports of violent acts of ethnic intolerance that continue to take place in Kosovo. We maintain that these developments are extremely dangerous and destabilize the ongoing efforts towards creating an environment conducive to all-inclusive elections.

Another important challenge is the overall peace process in Kosovo and the creation of safe and secure conditions for the successful and sustainable return to their homes of Kosovo Serbs displaced by the conflict.

The issue of missing people still remains high on the Kosovo agenda as an important aspect of reconciliation.

Among the most recent developments in Kosovo, we were very much disturbed by the report that international peacekeepers patrolling the Kosovo side of the border with Macedonia were attacked by ethnic Albanian rebels who were trying to cross the border illegally. We would be grateful if the Secretariat could give us any information available concerning this incident. Unfortunately, the incident further underscores the regional repercussions of the situation in Kosovo.

We are particularly concerned about the continued insecurity in neighbouring Macedonia. In its recent Presidential Statement welcoming the signing of the Framework Agreement, the Security Council reaffirmed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Macedonia and expressed its support for the actions of the President and the Government of Macedonia aimed at resolving the crisis. Being a strong supporter of the peaceful political means of settlement in that country, Ukraine remains committed to support the legitimate aspirations of the Republic of Macedonia to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity against those who follow the dangerous path of forceful resolution of the problems. Since the Framework Agreement on the settlement of the crisis was signed, its full implementation remains a priority.

We welcome the efforts made by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU) in assisting the Macedonian Government to ease the situation, and we commend their commitment to support the security, stability and

territorial integrity of the country. Now, with the launching of NATO's disarmament mission operation "Essential Harvest", we very much hope that the security situation there will improve.

In addition to NATO's effort, there are reports that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is contemplating a monitoring role in the peace process in Macedonia. It would be useful to have more information on this matter.

Mr. Eldon (United Kingdom): My delegation would first like to thank Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno for his briefing. It was, as always, an excellent, useful and helpful briefing, and I would like straight away to reiterate the United Kingdom's support for the efforts of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and for the Secretary-General's Special Representative towards peace and stability in Kosovo.

During this short statement I really want to concentrate only on the elections and what has been said about spill-over into Macedonia, not least because the representative of Belgium will be speaking later in the debate on behalf of the European Union and I associate myself with what he has to say.

First, the elections. We very much welcome the support given by the Belgrade authorities for Kosovo Serb registration in advance of the elections for the Kosovo Assembly in November. These elections will mark a correct and important step in returning significant responsibility for self-government to the people of Kosovo. We should also not forget that the elections are a very important opportunity to shape the future of Kosovo.

In order to make it clear that Kosovo must develop as a multi-ethnic community, all ethnic groups must take part in the elections. If they do not, those who support a mono-ethnic independent State will be able to claim, with some justification, that other ethnic groups have no long-term interest in Kosovo. It is therefore vital for the Belgrade authorities to give the earliest possible signal of their support for Kosovo Serbs and others to vote in the elections, not just to register.

Ambassador Lavrov may have been right to say that the clear signals from Belgrade, about both the need to register and the need to vote, may not solve everything. But they are certainly an extremely important element in the equation, and, as far as we are concerned, we strongly urge Belgrade to make its views known and to help in this area.

We welcome also the meetings between Special Representative Haekkerup and Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Covic on 15 and 25 August following Mr. Covic's appointment as chairman of the Yugoslav Coordinating Committee for Kosovo. These meetings, as Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno has said, were very helpful developments. It is also very good news that UNMIK and the Belgrade authorities are now working together positively and quickly to find practical solutions to address declared Serb concerns on security, returns and the missing.

I was particularly grateful to Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno for addressing the five points that were raised with the Security Council mission by President Kostunica. As Ambassador Hume has said, I think it is important that we keep on reminding ourselves of those points as key concerns declared by the authorities in Belgrade.

Extremism and ethnically motivated violence have to stop. Small groups of armed Albanians and others should not be allowed to destabilize the region. So we welcome the success of the Kosovo Force in the last few days in arresting Albanian extremists crossing into Kosovo from Macedonia armed with substantial amounts of weaponry and ammunition. It is important that that effort continue.

I also listened carefully to what the Under-Secretary-General had to say about the exchanges of correspondence, to which the Council has been privy, between the Secretary-General and President Trajkovski and other members of the Macedonian Government. It is clearly important that a close and harmonious relationship should be built up between the Secretariat and UNMIK and the Macedonian authorities in order that the concerns of both sides may be fully understood and in order that, when necessary, the appropriate action can be taken to meet those concerns. I know that, as a first step, our Macedonian colleague, who will be speaking later in the debate, will be making every effort to strike up good, close and cordial relations with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations so that we can make sure that things are kept fully on the rails.

Mr. Shen Guofang (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I wish at the outset to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Guéhenno, for his comprehensive briefing. We appreciate the recent efforts of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to bring about the comprehensive implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the progress it has made in that regard.

I wish today to address two issues. The first relates to the elections. China has consistently emphasized the importance of participation by minorities in order to ensure the fairness and equity of the elections. But we are concerned that the number of members of minorities who have registered still remains low. UNMIK must take further measures to crack down on criminal activities, to improve the security environment in Kosovo, to promote national reconciliation and to build mutual trust so as to create conditions in which refugees can return and in which more members of minorities can participate in the elections. Here, UNMIK should continue to strengthen coordination and cooperation with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The second point relates to illegal arms flows. When it comes to security issues, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is closely linked to the entire Balkan region. To maintain peace and stability in the region, it is very important to prevent illegal arms flows in border areas between Kosovo and Macedonia and to cut off the sources of supply of illegal weapons. In our view, UNMIK can and should take more effective measures in that regard. Like other countries, we hope that efforts to seize illegal arms that are in the hands of members of the Albanian minority will be successful in order to create conditions favourable for the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Macedonia and to maintain peace and stability in the region.

Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh): My delegation would like to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Guéhenno, for his useful briefing this morning. We particularly appreciated his in-depth analysis of the situation in Kosovo.

At the last Council meeting on this item, held on 26 July 2001, we reiterated our call for the continuation and strengthening of the dialogue between the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Council members stressed that the cooperation of Belgrade was essential for the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999). In that context, discussions yesterday, in the latest round of such talks, between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Haekkerup, and Deputy Prime Minister Covic marked a step in the right direction. We encourage them to continue their efforts at achieving the shared objectives.

One of our main concerns in Kosovo at this point in time is the forthcoming election. During our mission to Kosovo, we stressed the need for participation by all communities with a view to making the election a success. We underlined the importance of support for the democratic process that best guarantees the rights of all communities. The registration of minority communities, so far, has been extremely disappointing. Bangladesh appreciates the appeal made in that regard to the Kosovo Serbs this weekend by President Kostunica. We urge the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to continue to encourage registration for the 17 November elections by Kosovo Serbs and the internally displaced.

I shall make observations on a few specific areas. First is the question of missing persons and detainees. This is a humanitarian issue. It has serious political implications as well. We flagged this humanitarian question during our first mission to Kosovo, last year. We stressed the point again this year in Pristina and in Belgrade. We are pleased that Deputy Prime Minister Covic met representatives of the families of missing persons from Gracanica. Such gestures are crucial in building confidence and in helping reconciliation. We encourage the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Haekkerup, and Deputy Prime Minister Covic to continue to work together on the issue with some determination.

The second area concerns the rights of the minority communities — rights, and also responsibilities. We have always stressed that it is important that the majority ensure that the rights of the minority communities are respected. In turn, minority communities too must realize that there is no alternative to establishing a multi-ethnic society. The Kosovo Serb community, in particular, must integrate into the structures being set up by UNMIK rather than attempting to set up parallel structures. In that regard,

we appreciate the understanding being shown by Belgrade on the question of transition institutions.

The initiatives taken by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Haekkerup, to protect the rights of minority communities deserve our commendation. We should lend support to the regulation to monitor property sales in mixed neighbourhoods. That is a positive measure aimed at preventing irregular sales of property that would be detrimental to minority rights or to Kosovo's multi-ethnic character.

The third area relates to security and law and order. We reiterate that secure conditions for the elections must be ensured. We earlier recommended the development of a comprehensive strategy to resolve the complex situation in Mitrovica. The emphasis there should be multi-ethnic initiatives in the social, economic and religious areas that would facilitate rebuilding confidence among communities. We hope that progress has been made in that regard.

It is in the interest of Kosovo to facilitate the participation of all communities in the elections, as well as the return of refugees and displaced persons.

Fourthly, as regards the role of civil society, as we underscored during the Council's last meeting on this item, civil society, including Kosovo women's organizations, are engaged in reaching across the ethnic divide, in building confidence, in helping with reconciliation and in fostering greater tolerance. This is well recognized. Such organizations should receive the support of UNMIK and the encouragement of the international community.

I shall conclude by underlining that all Kosovars, irrespective of their ethnic background, should accept the framework established under resolution 1244 (1999) and should contribute to the full implementation of that resolution. To that end, representation of different communities in the interim institutions is essential. Therefore the holding of successful elections in Kosovo is the most important challenge facing UNMIK and, if I may say so, the international community. It is the most important undertaking for the people of Kosovo. It will be an important step forward for lasting peace in the Balkans.

Mr. Doutriaux (France) (*spoke in French*): France associates itself with the position that will be stated by Ambassador De Ruyt on behalf of the European Union. I would just like to make several comments from our national perspective. First, we thank Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno for the briefing he has just given. I would like to focus on two issues: the elections and security.

As regards the elections, we are 90 days away from election day. The election stems from the Constitutional Framework promulgated by Mr. Haekkerup. It is thus a new and important stage in the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999). We are gratified by the efforts of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). These two organizations are doing their best to make the elections a success and to ensure that the transfer of power to the institutions of provisional self-government takes place in an orderly fashion.

But as the date draws near, the commitment of all the inhabitants of Kosovo, whatever their ethnic origin may be, is indispensable. All the parties concerned have responsibilities in that connection. As regards the registration of members of the Kosovo Serb community, momentum has developed; we hope that it will accelerate in the coming days and weeks, and that the Serb community will decide to participate in the vote.

By voting on 17 November every Kosovar citizen will make his or her voice heard. Every vote counts, every vote has weight. To influence the decisions of the future autonomous institutions and to promote respect for their own interests all electors should participate in selecting their representatives in a democratic manner. We wish to echo Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno's appeal to all ethnic communities to participate, including, of course, the Serb community.

We also salute the appointment of the Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia, Mr. Covic, as head of the Serb coordination centre for Kosovo. That has been followed in recent weeks by talks between Mr. Covic and Mr. Haekkerup. These meetings are a very positive development. We encourage the intensification of the dialogue.

Secondly, as regards security issues, we are gratified that UNMIK is promulgating a series of regulations to combat terrorism and organized crime in Kosovo. The new police and justice pillar of the United Nations Mission will promote the smooth implementation of those measures. We must make sure

that the regulations in force leave no weak spots that could be exploited by criminals.

The Kosovo Force (KFOR) too must remain vigilant. We are gratified that its troops along the border with Macedonia have recently been reinforced. The situation in Macedonia requires that increased attention be paid to illegal activities along the Kosovo border. In that regard, we read with interest the Secretary-General's reply to the President of the Republic of Macedonia on this issue, among others.

The European Union has become deeply engaged in the search for a political solution in Macedonia. Mr. Solana, the High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Special Representative of the European Union in Macedonia, Mr. François Léotard, have been vigorously engaged in the field, along with Mr. James Pardew, to facilitate dialogue among the parties. This contributed to the signing by the Macedonian factions in Skopje of the 13 August agreement which provides a foundation for a thorough reform of the Macedonian State.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is now engaged in collecting the arms that the National Liberation Army of Macedonia has agreed to turn over. Five hundred and thirty French soldiers are participating in this operation, which springs from the goodwill of the parties. France is also supporting European Union efforts to achieve lasting stability in Macedonia, in particular through a donor conference and strengthened humanitarian and macro-economic aid.

Finally, I would like to return to the issue of resolution 1160 (1998). In harmony with what Russia and the United States have already stated, France, too, feels that the conditions have now been met for the unrestricted lifting of the arms embargo on Yugoslavia. We hope that the Council will take up the lifting of the embargo as soon as possible.

Mr. Ward (Jamaica): I thank the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Guéhenno, for briefing the Council on the latest developments in Kosovo. There has been steady progress on the development of a multi-ethnic society in Kosovo, but there remains much to be done. That is quite evident from reports of violence in the territory. Violence against minorities continues to plague the territory and to impede the work of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

We recognize that these, usually isolated, incidents are concentrated in a few areas, and that UNMIK continues to put structures in place to provide for the maintenance of law and order. We must recognize, however, that incidents of violence overshadow the enormous progress that has been made so far.

My delegation condemns what has been described as the ghastly and horrific killing of five members of a Kosovo Albanian family on 21 August. Early in the month of August, a Serb convoy was ambushed and three people were injured. Destabilizing incidents like these must not be allowed to continue.

We would like to see the judicial system equipped to deal with incidents such as these in an appropriate and proportionate manner. UNMIK must increase its effort to recruit a greater number of Serb judges, prosecutors and lawyers in order to build a multi-ethnic judicial system that will enjoy the support of all ethnic groups. UNMIK must continue to seek ways to control inter-ethnic violence as preparations continue for the elections in November.

In our last statement on Kosovo in the Council we mentioned the issue of property sales as an essential component in ensuring the peaceful coexistence of ethnic groups in Kosovo. We were concerned about indications that the sale of minority housing may have been used as a guise for ethnic cleansing. We therefore welcome the recent signing of a new UNMIK regulation to ensure that all proposed contracts for property sales in certain mixed neighbourhoods in Kosovo are thoroughly reviewed by a municipal administrator before being approved.

With regard to relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, my delegation is encouraged by the talks held between the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Covic, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Haekkerup. We have maintained that only through dialogue can obstacles to the improvement of relations with Serbia and to the advancement of reconciliation in Kosovo be overcome. Such talks are important to the process of preparing for elections in November, as the discussions are important elements of Serb participation and the removal of parallel security and administrative structures. We encourage more frequent talks aimed at ensuring the full implementation of resolution 1244 (1999). We also

welcome the support of the Kosovo Transitional Council for those talks.

We continue to monitor the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and its impact on the situation in Kosovo, and vice versa. The impact on the refugee situation remains of concern, and we note that the return of Macedonian refugees directly corresponds to periods of relative calm in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. We note also that the border crossing between that country and Kosovo remains blocked, preventing essential supplies such as fuel from entering Kosovo and resulting in the rationing of fuel there. Reports indicate that the closure of the border between the territories has also impeded rotations of United Nations police. It may also possibly affect the shipment of medical supplies. It would be instructive if Mr. Guéhenno could comment on whether those restrictions on United Nations police have adversely affected the security situation. Jamaica supports efforts aimed at a speedy resolution of the conflict in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, for the sake of the people of that country and for the sake of stability in Kosovo and throughout the region.

We are encouraged by the recent return of a number of Serb refugees to the village of Osojane. We hope that we will soon see a situation where, having returned, those Serbs will enjoy freedom of movement, safety and security.

We commend UNMIK for its work. We are aware of the difficulties it faces in carrying out its duties. It is clear that there are serious problems that UNMIK must address. It is our hope that significant progress can be made prior to the elections in November.

Mr. Mahbubani (Singapore): I too would like to join my colleagues in thanking the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, for his comprehensive briefing.

We want to begin with a confession. I think that this is the eighth time we have discussed the situation in Kosovo since Singapore joined the Council, and it is very difficult for us to find something new to say. But, for the record, we want to reiterate the points we have made in the past on this issue.

There is, however, one new dimension as we meet today. As several speakers have pointed out, that dimension is the developments in Macedonia. Everyone, I think, has said that developments in Macedonia are linked to developments in Kosovo. This is clearly a variable of uncertainty that we have. We thought it would be useful to raise some questions in this area that, we hope, someone may be able to answer — although I will confess to Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno that these may be difficult questions for him to answer.

I have taken note of the fact that the Council issued a presidential statement on 13 August, two weeks ago, welcoming the signing of the Framework Agreement in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by President Trajkovski and the leaders of the four political parties. But my understanding is — that is, to the best of my knowledge even though I was not here at the time — that there was no substantive discussion of that issue. It may be useful to have a substantive discussion of it. I will illustrate this by reading a few paragraphs from a recent op-ed piece written by Gareth Evans on that agreement.

But before doing so, I would just like to raise a small, procedural matter. I was reading the Framework Agreement and noticed that the first sentence says that

> "The following points comprise an agreed framework for securing the future of Macedonia's democracy and permitting the development of closer and more integrated relations between the Republic of Macedonia and the Euro-Atlantic community".

I am somewhat intrigued by the phrase "Euro-Atlantic community". Is this a new organization? Does it have an address? Does it have a legal structure? Or is it a general political body? I am just sort of curious as to the origin of that phrase.

But, turning to the agreement, let me just read what was said by Mr. Gareth Evans, the President of the International Crisis Group.

> "Macedonia's peace agreement is signed and within a few days, barring further hitches, 3,500 North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO] troops will be on the ground to collect the ethnic Albanian rebels' weapons. But no one who cares about the future of the Balkans is breaking out the champagne. Too many on both sides of the divide are only too keen to continue the struggle, and the NATO mission, as presently constructed, has neither the mandate nor the

capacity to create sustainable peace. This is Macedonia 2001, but it looks unnervingly like Bosnia 1992.

"More is at stake here than the breakup of a small, impoverished country, and all the human misery that could go with it. Collapse in Macedonia would likely delay achievement of a stable, multi-ethnic Bosnia; damage prospects for peacefully negotiating Kosovo's final status; jeopardize Serbia's democratic transition; and significantly damage NATO's credibility in Europe and beyond." (*The Wall Street Journal, 22 August 2001, p. A16*)

Clearly, we therefore have some fairly hard questions to raise about the Agreement and the impact it is going to have on the situation in Kosovo. Four questions came to my mind while reading it.

The first question is, having participated in at least eight discussions on Kosovo, could we in the Council in any way have anticipated this dimension of the problem? As that dimension has clearly had a significant impact on the situation in Kosovo in all our discussions, why did we not anticipate it? It is an interesting question for the Council to ask because, from time to time, we issue statements and calls and declarations saying that we should engage in prevention of armed conflict. Why did we not succeed in this case?

Of course, the second, related, question is, what form of preventive action could the Council have taken if it had indeed paid attention to all the signals coming through indicating that trouble was brewing on the border and that it would spill over into Kosovo?

The third question — and here I note of course that the Council has welcomed NATO involvement in Macedonia, which I frankly believe we should all welcome — may perhaps be a theoretical, legal question. Does the Council in any way need to legitimize such action? Or is it our role just to take note of it and welcome it without in any way either endorsing it or rejecting it? What is the technical role of the Council when regional organizations take a leadership role on such difficult issues?

I also have a fourth question, which is perhaps the most difficult. I think that, if all goes well and the Agreement works and operation Essential Harvest succeeds, we should commend NATO and welcome the fact that a very dangerous situation has been prevented. But if it does not work, who will pick up the pieces? Will it be the Council that will have to pick up the pieces and say, "Okay, it is now our responsibility to look at the situation and see what we can do about it"? If that is the case, how do we arrange for the passing of the baton, and for who does it and when?

I realize that these are not easy questions. I am not so sure whether it is fair to ask the Under-Secretary-General to answer them. But we think that these are the sorts of questions that the Council certainly should have been considering during the past few months, perhaps in an attempt to prevent from happening the situation that we see today on the border between Kosovo and Macedonia.

Mr. Koonjul (Mauritius): We are grateful to the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, for his very comprehensive and useful briefing this morning. We have noted the progress made by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in preparations for the elections in Kosovo and in finalizing the institutions of provisional self-government.

However, we are concerned about the security situation, in particular about reports that several Kosovo Force (KFOR) and UNMIK police members were recently injured during riots following a car accident in the north of Mitrovica. Such attacks on United Nations personnel are serious, and they hamper the work of those people who are dedicated to bringing peace to the province. The population of Kosovo must be made to understand that taking out their frustration on KFOR and United Nations personnel will not help solve their problem. The political leaders must do everything possible to convince their partisans not to resort to violence. We also deplore the murder of five members of a Kosovo Albanian family near Pristina on 20 August 2001 and the attack on a Serb convoy, which left three persons injured at the beginning of the month. These violent acts negatively impact on the creation of a safe environment for displaced persons and refugees to return to Kosovo and undermine efforts to bring peace and stability to the region. We equally deplore attempts at political assassinations, as well as continuing organized crime activities. We support UNMIK efforts at curbing such acts, while stressing that it is the responsibility of the Kosovars themselves to create conditions conducive to a multi-ethnic Kosovo.

With a large number of refugees in the province and with the closure of the border at Blace, the work of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo is being considerably hampered. We call on the Government of Macedonia to make arrangements for the re-opening of the route for easy access of supplies to United Nations personnel in Kosovo and for the return of refugees in Macedonia. We have noted KFOR's seizure of weapons, such as pistols, grenades, ammunition and anti-personnel landmines. My delegation encourages KFOR in its operations to cut down the supply lines of the extremists. We also call on all those who have contact with the extremists to persuade them to cease violence and to participate in the UNMIK process to build and guarantee an autonomous, safe and peaceful Kosovo.

The talks between Mr. Hans Haekkerup and the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Covic, on 15 August have reassured us of the support of the Serbian side for the principle that there should be no security and administrative structures parallel to those administered by UNMIK. We also welcome the positive attitude of Belgrade regarding the registration of Serb community voters for the forthcoming Kosovo-wide elections. It is crucial that all communities register to be counted as residents of Kosovo and have a chance to vote and be represented in the Kosovo Assembly. We support the need for an enhanced public campaign to encourage voter registration and the eventual participation of the Kosovars in the election on 17 November.

We also note that the issue of Kosovo Albanian detainees in Serbian prisons was discussed during the meeting. We hope that the Serbian authorities will soon hand over those detained to UNMIK so that these cases can be reviewed as appropriate by UNMIK. These measures should help build confidence between the communities. With the collaboration of the Serbian Ministry of Justice, UNMIK should be able to further improve the judicial process and enhance the trust of the people in the judicial system of Kosovo.

My delegation encourages the Serbian authorities to continue dialogue and cooperation with UNMIK on the security arrangements in anticipation of the November elections. Such cooperation is essential to ensuring the wide and safe participation of all the communities in the elections, which should hopefully lead to a multi-ethnic Government and should contribute to lasting peace in the region.

Mr. Corr (Ireland): My delegation too very much appreciates today's briefing from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Guéhenno, and the opportunity provided by this meeting to review recent developments, particularly in the light of the forthcoming Kosovo-wide elections.

The Permanent Representative of Belgium will later deliver a statement on behalf of the European Union. As Ireland subscribes fully to the views expressed therein, I will limit myself to a few brief comments, especially in the context of the election and security.

Mr. Guéhenno's briefing shows that preparations for the elections are proceeding at pace. My delegation commends the hard work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Haekkerup, and of everyone else involved in the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in that regard and in implementing other aspects of resolution 1244 (1999). The elections on 17 November clearly represent a unique opportunity for the people of Kosovo, and, along with others here today, we very much urge all citizens to participate fully in the political process. As has been said before in the Council, all communities must realize that the only possible future for Kosovo is as a multi-ethnic society based on respect for minority rights and human rights. The Kosovar Albanians must respect the rights of minorities, and those minorities accept, in that context, the challenge of participation.

We note with satisfaction the support of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for the registration of Serbs in Kosovo. We welcome efforts undertaken by the Serb parties in that regard, and we hope that the difficulties over certification that we have heard will be resolved soon. The number of Kosovo Serbs that have registered to vote is, as has been said, disappointing. Ireland very much hopes that they will register in larger numbers and urges them to do so, and we urge their leaders to continue to show full support for such participation. Kosovar parties and civic leaders must do everything possible to encourage a positive climate for Serb participation. As part of such a climate, terrorist activity must cease, and all ethnic Albanian representatives must clearly distance themselves from violence. Further early and quantifiable progress in the security area must also be achieved.

In that regard, my delegation welcomes, as others have today, the recent detention by KFOR of a number of suspected terrorists trying to cross illegally into Kosovo. We also welcome the establishment of the police and justice pillar and the information provided today by the Under-Secretary-General about detention facilities, witness protection programmes, and so on.

Ireland welcomes the intensification of relations between UNMIK and Belgrade and, in particular, the recent progress achieved regarding missing persons. Further cooperation by Serbs and by ethnic Albanians on this extremely sensitive issue will help to create a favourable climate for change. We appreciate the information given by Mr. Guéhenno about developments relating to the points raised by President Kostunica during the Security Council mission's visit to the region in June, and we hope that further progress can be achieved. We believe that UNMIK should liaise ever more closely with the administration in Belgrade, including in relation to refugee returns, and we hope that further meetings, such as those recently held between Mr. Haekkerup and Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Covic, will be held. Ireland hopes that, in order to facilitate such liaison, the guidelines for the entry of officials from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia into Kosovo will be used pragmatically and flexibly.

The Council has already issued a presidential statement, which welcomed the signing of the Framework Agreement in Skopje on 13 August. We hope that the Agreement will prove to be the basis for a stable political settlement. Ireland urges the parties to implement all aspects of the agreement in good faith and to honour all of their commitments. We call on KFOR to continue its efforts to further strengthen controls along the border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and to contain cross-border activities by extremist groups.

Mr. Strømmen (Norway): I would like to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Guéhenno, for his briefing, and to reiterate Norway's support for the efforts of United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) to implement Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the Constitutional Framework for Kosovo.

We are pleased to note that some progress has been achieved, including in the areas of confidence-building for minorities and of the small-scale return of refugees. We welcome the successful return of a first group of Kosovo Serbs in the municipality of Istok. We look forward to the implementation of further returns. However, much more remains to be done.

My Government is concerned about the low level of voter registration among Kosovo Serbs. Intensified efforts are clearly needed by all parties involved to achieve elections that are perceived as legitimate and representative for all communities in Kosovo.

We welcome recent statements by Yugoslav and Serb leaders encouraging Kosovo Serbs to register as voters in the November provincial elections. For its part, the international community should facilitate this progress by refraining from measures and actions that unduly impinge upon Belgrade's authority and influence among Kosovo Serbs. Convincing the Kosovo Serbs and other minorities of the advantages of voter registration seems hard enough. Convincing them that they have something to gain from participating in elections is even harder. The effort must be made. We welcome the ongoing discussion on post-election structures and talks, including consultations with representatives of all ethnic communities.

The democratic authorities in Belgrade are working systematically and with determination to settle the accounts of the country's near past and bring Yugoslavia back to normal international cooperation. The extradition of Mr. Milosevic to The Hague is an important step. Serbian authorities are pursuing investigations of cases of suspected war crimes against civilians in Kosovo. Serbian perpetrators are being prosecuted. The engagement of Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Covic as Yugoslav coordinator for Kosovo is encouraging. We believe that UNMIK should avail itself fully of this opportunity for constructive and practical cooperation with the authorities in Belgrade.

The international community should acknowledge that Yugoslavia has truly entered a post-Milosevic era. Increased cooperation with the democratic forces in Belgrade will not only improve the possibilities for implementing resolution 1244 (1999) in a sustainable manner in Kosovo, but also contribute to the consolidation of the authorities in Belgrade against less reform-oriented circles of Serbia. The way in which resolution 1244 (1999) is implemented will have clear implications for the whole region. Norway welcomes the Framework Agreement signed on 13 August by

President Trajkovski and the heads of the four main political parties in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Agreement represents a vital first step in creating conditions for peace and stability in that country. The international community must stand united in giving firm and clear support to the Framework Agreement.

We express our full support for the engagement of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in this process. Operation Essential Harvest is a prerequisite for successful implementation of the agreement. It is essential that the ceasefire be observed. Norway strongly condemns all acts of political violence. Such acts can only jeopardize the continuation of the political process.

It is also important to recognize that confidence and trust between the Albanian and Slav communities in Macedonia is almost non-existent. Considerable efforts must be made to address this situation. The onus for action rests primarily with Macedonian authorities and political leaders from the Albanian and Slav Macedonian communities. However, the international community can and should be supportive.

Lastly, I would like to underline the merits of maintaining a regional perspective in the Security Council dealings with Kosovo rather than a Kosovo perspective on dealing with the Balkans. This implies that we must carefully consider the potential impact that the arrangements for Kosovo might have on neighbouring States and on regional stability.

Mr. Touré (Mali) (*spoke in French*): I, too, wish to join previous speakers in thanking Under-Secretary-General Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, for the very full update about the activities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Despite the complex and many difficulties facing UNMIK in implementing Council resolution 1244 (1999), we must recognize that outstanding progress has been made in establishing democratic and multi-ethnic institutions in Kosovo. My statement will cover a number of main points.

Regarding the political situation, on 26 July, my delegation expressed firm support for Mr. Haekkerup and the whole UNMIK team for having promulgated the Constitutional Framework for provisional self-government in Kosovo and for having announced the date of elections. On that same day, we said we agreed that the Constitutional Framework and the announcement of the date of elections were definitely decisive steps towards a democratic and multi-ethnic Kosovo. Today, we note with great interest that notable progress has been made in the preparations for the elections to be held on 17 November.

Because those elections are an essential framework to combat intransigent extremism and ethnic intolerance, my delegation encourages all the people of Kosovo to participate in them in large numbers. We believe that the unreserved participation of all communities is crucial to the success of the elections. That is why my delegation will give unstinting support to UNMIK initiatives to draw up inclusive electoral rolls conducive to the free participation of all ethnic groups in the electoral process.

Participation by all communities, in particular by the Serbian minority, is a major concern for my delegation. Efforts taken by UNMIK, the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the international community to encourage Serb political figures to join the ongoing democratic process in Kosovo are to be welcomed and encouraged. We welcome the positive attitude adopted by Belgrade towards the registration of voters for the upcoming elections, particularly the registration of Serbs. In order to encourage this process, adequate security measures should be taken to encourage all refugees, in particular, those from the Serb minority, to return home and participate actively in the elections, and to build a multi-ethnic democratic society in Kosovo.

Turning to the Constitutional Framework, it should be stressed that its implementation is of crucial importance to my delegation, because it will enable the people of Kosovo to administer their daily lives by encouraging the moderates to advance the political process, while marginalizing the extremists. That is why my delegation reiterates its appeal to all of the inhabitants of Kosovo to participate actively in the structures that have been set in place and in the future Government of the territory.

Turning to security issues, my delegation remains concerned at the persistence of ethnic and political violence and of organized crime in Kosovo. The 21 August 2001 murder of five members of the Hajra family near Glogovac was eloquent evidence of this mindless violence. There is no doubt that this violence against the minorities of the province is the greatest

obstacle to the establishment of peace, democracy and prosperity by the international community in Kosovo. We strongly condemn this mindless violence, which, unfortunately, is also the biggest obstacle to the return of refugees and displaced persons.

The establishment by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of pillar I and the enactment of laws that punish organized crime, illegal arms possession and terrorism are useful measures, which have considerably improved the security conditions in Kosovo.

Because they have proved to be effective, my delegation also supports the specific steps taken by UNMIK and KFOR to monitor the administrative borders of Kosovo, in particular the border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. All useful steps should be taken to prevent Kosovo from becoming a rear base for Albanian rebels of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). We encourage the Macedonian authorities and KLA leaders to comply strictly with their commitments undertaken under the auspices of the European Union. We hope that, after the weapons are collected, the international community will do everything possible to create the best possible conditions for lasting peace to be established in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Turning now to the economy, in order to put an end to the disastrous state of the economy and the resulting high unemployment in Kosovo, the adjustment measures taken by UNMIK should be encouraged and continued. Convinced that economic development is a major element in bringing about stabilization, my delegation recommends the mobilization by the international community of additional funding for economic recovery programmes at the village level.

Furthermore, the question of missing persons and detainees — which remains one of the main obstacles to reconciliation — is a major concern of my delegation. We support the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and the parties concerned in implementing decisions taken with regard to this fundamental question.

Finally, my delegation, while recognizing the magnitude of the job to be done by UNMIK, pays tribute to Mr. Hans Haekkerup for his leadership of UNMIK and to the entire local and international staff of UNMIK and KFOR for their determination and commitment to implement resolution 1244 (1999). The international community should continue to support UNMIK at this crucial stage of its commitment to Kosovo in order to attain peace, security and sustainable development.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Colombia.

I wish to start by thanking Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno for his comprehensive presentation on recent events in Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. With regard to what he said, in the first place we support the constructive dialogue held between Mr. Haekkerup and the Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia, Mr. Covic.

As we have pointed out on different occasions, the success of the political process of implementing the Constitutional Framework, and of Kosovo's future in general, depends on cooperative relations with Belgrade. This is why we are gratified to hear that the degree of understanding between the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Yugoslav Government is constantly improving, and we hope this will contribute to the search for solutions to matters such as security, missing and detained persons, and the return of refugees.

As for electoral participation, the low figures only 10 days before the closing of the rolls are alarming. We would all like the recent appeal made by the Belgrade authorities to stimulate the Serb Kosovo population to be heeded. These comments should be made repeatedly and even more emphatically in the days to come.

In this connection, we would like Mr. Guéhenno to give us additional information about the voter registration process, in particular as regards what is being done to register displaced persons and refugees as well as what has been done thus far to stimulate participation in these categories.

Another interesting topic is the situation in prisons. Last month, Mr. Guéhenno mentioned the material conditions in prisons as a result of the number of persons being arrested on a daily basis as compared to the capacity of penal institutions. We would like to know what UNMIK is doing to cope with this situation and whether, in his opinion, there is anything the

Council could do to prevent the problem from spinning out of control.

The last element we would like to highlight concerns the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in relation to Kosovo. The Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has sent several letters to the Secretary-General making serious accusations about the work being carried out by UNMIK and KFOR to put an end to assistance being provided to the National Liberation Army.

We would like to know what specific actions are being carried out jointly by UNMIK and KFOR to investigate thoroughly the accusations and allegations against members of the Kosovo Protection Corps. The international community must not allow all the achievements made in Kosovo through the work of UNMIK and KFOR to be jeopardized by these facts. That is why concrete acts must be employed to respond to these allegations.

Finally, in connection with what has been said about sanctions, it is clear that the Council must be prepared to consider without delay lifting the sanctions. In my opinion, this is the best way to recognize the fact that the sanctions must end as soon as the circumstances that justified their imposition have ceased to exist.

I shall now resume my functions as President of the Council.

The next speaker on my list is the representative of Belgium. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. De Ruyt (Belgium) *(spoke in French)*: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia — and the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries that are members of the European Economic Area, Iceland and Liechtenstein, align themselves with this statement.

Each meeting of the Security Council brings us closer to the crucial deadline of the elections in Kosovo next November. We welcome the regularity of these open debates, which give us the opportunity to take stock of current and future developments in the region. In this connection, I should like to thank Mr. Guéhenno for his excellent briefing. This meeting also gives me an opportunity to confirm once again the European Union's support for the efforts made by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and by the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mr. Hans Haekkerup, to implement resolution 1244 (1999).

We attach particular importance to recent developments in Kosovo because they are decisive steps towards a democratic and multi-ethnic Kosovo. We have warmly welcomed the publication of the Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government. Now, for it to become a reality, it is essential that all the communities participate in the elections next November as well as in the Kosovo transitional institutions that will emerge from the elections.

In this connection, we welcome the support offered by Belgrade for the registration of the Serbian electors in Kosovo. We are also glad that several political parties have already registered for the ballot. We hope that the parties which have begun the procedure — the Serb parties in particular — will carry it to conclusion so that all the communities are represented on the electoral rolls. The Union notes with satisfaction that the process is moving forward, but, as Mr. Guéhenno has just pointed out, more progress is needed. We hope that Belgrade will actively encourage the Serb community to participate in the elections. The European Union is indeed convinced that all communities should take part in the elections in order to ensure a multi-ethnic future for Kosovo.

In general, relations between Belgrade and UNMIK have developed very positively over the last few weeks. We have often expressed how important we consider these relations to be, and we welcome the fact that Deputy Prime Minister Covic and Mr. Haekkerup are meeting now, and we hope that that collaboration will intensify in the future.

The European Union is well aware of the problems that persist in Kosovo, particularly as regards security, missing persons and the return of refugees and displaced persons, as well as regarding organized crime. In this respect, we are taking the concerns of the various communities very seriously. We welcome the measures or initiatives already taken, and we encourage UNMIK and the other players involved to continue their efforts in these areas.

An encouraging sign for the whole region was sent to us by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with the signing of the Framework Agreement by President Trajkovski and the leaders of the four major political parties. We hope that Parliament will consider it with attention with the aim of approving it as soon as possible. The Union urges all the parties faithfully to abide by the agreement and to take all the measures needed for its speedy and full implementation. It is essential that everyone observe the ceasefire scrupulously from now on. The success of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization operation "Essential Harvest", as well as the whole peace process, depends on this. We remain confident, despite the uncertainty of the situation.

In this context, the frontier between Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia remains extremely sensitive, as others have noted this morning. We encourage the Kosovo Force to continue to devote the greatest attention to it.

The European Union will pursue its efforts to promote stability, democratic development and prosperity in the region, in close collaboration with all the parties. In following up on the commitments entered into at the Zagreb summit, the countries of the region have made encouraging progress along the path of democracy, peaceful coexistence and regional cooperation. We are certain that these efforts will ensure peace and stability for all the communities of the region.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The next speaker is the representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. I invite him to make his statement.

Mr. Sahovic (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia): Before I address the issues that are the subject of our debate today, let me express my satisfaction at seeing you, Sir, presiding over the Security Council deliberations for this month. I also take this opportunity to thank Mr. Guéhenno for his, as usual, very interesting and in-depth briefing and analysis.

We are all aware of the important and sensitive political phase that is quickly approaching, since there are just two and a half months before the scheduled elections in Kosovo and Metohija on 17 November. A number of issues deserve our collective attention and were mentioned in the briefing we just received and in subsequent statements by the members of the Council and other colleagues. So allow me, therefore, to make a few comments.

First and foremost, since our last debate here my Government has intensified its efforts to promote direct and prompt communication with the international presence in Kosovo and Metohija. With this in mind, the Governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia have established a coordinating centre for Kosovo and Metohija, headed by Mr. Nebojsa Covic, the Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia. The Centre's primary goal is to enhance cooperation with the international community in solving the common problems and achieving the shared aims of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in the province. It is hoped that this will also help to improve the confidence of Kosovo Serbs in UNMIK and KFOR.

The results of the efforts are already visible. Important meetings have been held between Mr. Haekkerup and Mr. Covic to discuss a number of outstanding issues. Indeed, as Mr. Guéhenno stated, some progress has already been made, and we certainly hope for more.

Also with the objective of facilitating communication and solving practical problems, just a few days ago my Government adopted guidelines for the transport of KFOR personnel and equipment through Yugoslav territory. This is, of course, in our opinion a temporary measure, pending the conclusion of the status of forces agreement and the status of mission agreement, in accordance with the established United Nations practice for similar missions.

Unfortunately, in spite of all these efforts unnecessary misunderstandings and incidents continue to occur, such as the one that took place on 7 August on the Federal Government premises at Gracanica. Another step in the wrong direction was the introduction of the guidelines of the Special Representative providing for 96-hour notice by any Yugoslav or Serbian official who wants to visit Kosovo and Metohija. This measure will certainly not facilitate our efforts to encourage the non-Albanian population to register for the elections. If anything, it will discourage them.

I want to reiterate that these misunderstandings are really unnecessary, and I hope that we can avoid their occurrence in the future through our mutual

contacts here, through the UNMIK office in Belgrade and, of course, through the contacts between Mr. Haekkerup and Mr. Covic.

Speaking of registration, as has already been mentioned here today, the highest Yugoslav and Serbian officials have repeatedly called on the Kosovo Serbs to register. Also, the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Displaced Persons has signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Organization for Migration enabling registration outside of Kosovo and Metohija, with the participation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. So far, however, the response of potential voters has not been enthusiastic, to say the least.

The reasons are many, I think. It is clear that the basic preconditions for free and fair elections have not yet been created and that UNMIK has to do much more to ensure safety and liberty for all in Kosovo and Metohija, regardless of ethnicity. Continued violent attacks by armed Albanian extremists and terrorists — not only against non-Albanians, but also against Albanians and even UNMIK and KFOR personnel — provide telling evidence that a proper atmosphere that would allow important decisions to be taken regarding the future of this southern Serbian province has not as yet been created.

In this context, it is also important to note the recent independent reports that shed some light on the overall human rights and law and order situation in Kosovo and Metohija, especially the reports of the ombudsperson for Kosovo. These reports identify a number of instances of clear incompatibility between UNMIK regulations and practices and recognized international standards. We are of the view that these findings should be carefully analysed and that urgent action should be taken to rectify the situation.

I am grateful to the Council members for expressing readiness to lift the arms embargo that was instituted by resolution 1160 (1998). This would be a very important step in normalizing our relations with the international community.

Allow me also to use this occasion to bring to the Council's attention the situation in the ground safety zone in southern Serbia. So far the plan — which has been supported by the Council — for the peaceful resolution of the crisis in this area has been implemented successfully. The training of a multi-ethnic police force is well under way. In addition, the Yugoslav army and KFOR have concluded an agreement providing for the full control of the zone by the Yugoslav army and enhanced cooperation between the army and the international security presence in Kosovo and Metohija.

Finally, regarding the other issue of concern for the region — an issue which is also closely related to the situation in Kosovo and Metohija — let me reiterate Yugoslavia's strong support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Macedonia. In the past weeks and months Macedonia has been on the brink of war due to unacceptable terrorist activities of armed ethnic Albanian groups, often supported and supplied from Kosovo and Metohija. The recently signed Framework Agreement, which Yugoslavia supports, and the deployment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization contingent to carry out the disarmament of armed ethnic groups raise hopes that the existing problems will be resolved through the reforms and processes agreed upon by the political factions in the country.

We continue to firmly believe that the use of violence and terrorism in pursuit of political goals must not be allowed. For their part, UNMIK and KFOR have clear responsibility to prevent any future actions to destabilize Macedonia emanating from the area under their control and administration.

In conclusion, let me once again emphasize that we rely on the Security Council to ensure the full implementation of its resolution 1244 (1999), to which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is committed. We also think that it is high time for the region — supported by the international community, including the Security Council — to intensify discussions on how to embark on the road towards lasting stability in our part of the world.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia his kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Kerim (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia): Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to address the Security Council. At the same time, I would like to express my appreciation for

the introductory remarks and evaluations made by Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno. Allow me also to join those who associated themselves with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Belgium on behalf of the presidency of the European Union.

It is of vital importance for the Republic of Macedonia, as an immediate neighbour of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, to have a stable and transparent northern border, including with Kosovo. The Macedonian Government therefore gives full support to the efforts and measures undertaken in Kosovo by the authorities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) to consolidate the situation by building a multi-ethnic society, strengthening the rule of law and building democratic institutions, which are prerequisites for the success of this complex mission of regional importance.

The Republic of Macedonia welcomes the strengthening of cooperation between UNMIK and the authorities in Belgrade to address issues of mutual concern, including conditions for fair participation by Serbs in the forthcoming Kosovo-wide elections. The success of the elections, in our view, will be an important step towards resolving the future status of Kosovo, taking fully into account the regional aspect of this issue and its implications for the other countries of the region. In that context, we consider indispensable the dialogue among the democratically elected representatives of Kosovo's self-government, the Serbian and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia authorities, and those of Montenegro.

Within the context of today's debate on Kosovo, allow me to make some comments regarding the situation in my country, the Republic of Macedonia. The signing of the Framework Agreement by political leaders under the auspices of President Trajkovski was welcomed by the Security Council as a significant step towards a peaceful outcome of the political and security crisis. In addition to that, the Secretary-General, Mr. Annan, in his letter of response to the Macedonian leadership, underlined the readiness of the United Nations to offer its full support and assistance to implement the Framework Agreement in good faith.

In stressing the relevance of these messages, I would like to draw the attention of the Council to some aspects of the security dimension of the implementation of the Framework Agreement that are directly or indirectly related to the developments in Kosovo.

The recent activities of UNMIK and KFOR authorities in Kosovo aimed at strengthening control of the border and minimizing the number of illegal border crossings and of incursions by armed extremist groups are certainly contributing to more efficient control of infiltration and illegal traffic along the border zone with Kosovo, as called for in resolution 1345 (2001). However, for the security component of the Framework Agreement to be fully effective, it is essential to ensure a complete cessation of the activities of the ethnic Albanian insurgency's instigators and supporters from Kosovo, including members of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC).

We support the lifting of the arms embargo imposed by resolution 1160 (1998), as mentioned today in the debate, and we urge UNMIK and KFOR authorities in Kosovo to undertake the necessary measures against any possible abuse. In that regard, let me reiterate the expectations of the President and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia that UNMIK and KFOR authorities will stop the infiltration from Kosovo into the Republic of Macedonia of armed terrorist groups and logistical support; and that they will prevent all mobilization activities by former KPC fighters, as well as their joining the ranks of the National Liberation Army, as it is called today — or whatever may be the name of tomorrow's terrorist organization.

This is also of particular importance for the success of the operation being conducted by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Macedonia to disarm ethnic Albanian armed groups and to ensure their complete, voluntary disbandment. The effectiveness of that operation should not be measured solely by the quantity of arms collected, but also by the creation of conditions for the cessation of hostilities and the establishment of a lasting peaceful environment for the implementation of the Framework Agreement.

In conclusion, let me recall that the Framework Agreement is based, *inter alia*, on the principles that the use of violence in pursuit of political aims is rejected completely and unconditionally; that there are no territorial solutions to ethnic issues; and that there should be closer and more integrated relations with the Euro-Atlantic community. Those values are common to

the whole region, including Kosovo. That is why we have to join our efforts in pursuing their implementation.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now invite Mr. Guéhenno to respond as he sees fit to the comments and questions that have been raised.

Mr. Guéhenno: Several delegations have expressed their concern with respect to the events along the Macedonian border and their potential impact on the situation in Kosovo. I would like to respond to those concerns.

First, with regard to the situation on the border, I am not in a position at this stage to give additional information on the incidents mentioned by the delegation of Ukraine. But I would like to inform the Council that just yesterday no less than 35 Kosovo Albanians were arrested for illegally crossing the border into Kosovo. Over the last weekend, no less than 96 Kosovo Albanians were similarly intercepted while crossing the border. I think this shows the degree to which the Kosovo Force (KFOR) is actively patrolling the border to make sure that it does not transform Kosovo into a safe haven for extremists as the situation returns to normal in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Secondly, a question was raised by the delegation of Jamaica about the impact of border closures. Indeed, the closure of the border does complicate significantly the work of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). It also complicates police rotations. At this stage, I do not think it has yet directly affected the operations of the police. But I think it affects them indirectly, in the sense that increased economic hardship in Kosovo can certainly only play into the hands of those extremists who do not want Kosovo to return to normalcy.

More broadly, the representative of Singapore raised the issue of the impact of the events in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on our whole strategy in Kosovo. At this stage, I would just say that this is a reminder that there will not be any lasting solution in the Balkans that does not address the regional dimension. That is true at the political level because the principles that are established in one place have validity in other places; we always have to take into consideration the implications of what is decided in one situation for other situations. That is true also in the very practical sense that we know that organized crime does not recognize borders or boundaries: there have been links between organized crime and extremist activities. Some kind of regional approach — in police work, for instance — is certainly warranted.

As far as the role of the United Nations is concerned vis-à-vis the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, other organizations — the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) — have taken a leading role. The United Nations has a supportive role to play and, as the Secretary-General mentioned in the letter just cited by the representative of Macedonia, we stand ready to give our full support and to share whatever expertise we have to help in the follow-up to what is now being done by NATO in operation Essential Harvest. It is clear that that operation sends a strong political signal. It is also achieving, we hope, very practical results. But beyond the political signal that is being sent, there will certainly be a need for monitoring. There will be a need for a return to normalcy. That requires time, and we stand ready to give our support in any way that is asked of us.

The representative of Colombia asked about the registration process outside of Kosovo. I would like to emphasize that much has been done to facilitate out-of-Kosovo registration and voting. Agreements have been reached with the International Organization for Migration and with the OSCE, and between the OSCE and the relevant authorities in Serbia and Montenegro, which have allowed for the opening of registration centres in both Serbia and Montenegro, primarily in those areas where the displaced are concentrated. As was noted by the representative of Yugoslavia, we would like those practical measures to yield more results. We still hope that they will, and that more people will take advantage of the facility to register. That is a political message that is being emphasized in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. There have been articles in the press. There have been radio spots to spread the word that the possibility to register exists, and that those who can register should make good use of that possibility. Additionally, to ensure the transparency of the process, representatives of the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are allowed to be present during the data-inputting process in both Pristina and in Vienna to make sure that everything is done in the most adequate way.

A question was also raised by the representative of Colombia on detention facilities. As I mentioned in my briefing, progress is already being made with the so-called quick-build detention facility and with the refurbishment of the larger facility of the Dubrava prison. But it is clear that with the adoption of new regulations, the legal ground upon which individuals can be charged and detained will become broader and there will probably be a need for greater detention capacities. We are confident that with the strengthening of the justice and police pillar, the issue of having adequate detention facilities in Kosovo will be addressed.

The last question you raised, Mr. President, was with respect to the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC). I would like to mention here that UNMIK recently adopted a KPC disciplinary code, and also that it relies on cooperation with KFOR for reports on acts by KPC members that would constitute criminal or serious civil offences. Whenever evidence is found, the UNMIK-KFOR Joint Executive Committee will direct the commander of the KPC to suspend immediately a KPC member who is suspected of committing an offence. That was the case, for example, following the issuing of the United States executive order at the end of June. If after that immediate suspension, the investigation confirms the suspicion, the KPC member will receive a dismissal order and will leave the KPC. I would mention in that respect that besides yesterday's case, three other KPC members were dismissed — not suspended: dismissed — in August. Others have been suspended, and we are waiting for the conclusion of those investigations to see whether they will be dismissed.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Mr. Guéhenno for his clarifications and additional explanations. There are no more speakers on the list. The Security Council has thus completed the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4360

Security Council

Fifty-sixth year

Provisional

4360th meeting

Thursday, 30 August 2001, 10.15 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Valdivieso	(Colombia)
Members:	Bangladesh	Mr. Chowdhury
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	France	Mr. Teixeira da Silva
	Ireland	Mr. Corr
	Jamaica	Mr. Ward
	Mali	Mr. Kassé
	Mauritius	Mr. Koonjul
	Norway	Mr. Strømmen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Singapore	Ms. Lee
	Tunisia	Ms. Achouri
	Ukraine	Mr. Krokhmal
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Hume

Agenda

Role of the Security Council in the prevention of armed conflicts

Report of the Secretary-General on the prevention of armed conflict (S/2001/574).

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

01-52417 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Role of the Security Council in the prevention of armed conflicts

Report of the Secretary-General on the prevention of armed conflict (S/2001/574)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now continue its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2001/828, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. If I hear no objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bangladesh, China, Colombia, France, Ireland, Jamaica, Mali, Mauritius, Norway, Russian Federation, Singapore, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1366 (2001).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.4361

Security Council

Fifty-sixth year

Provisional

4361st meeting

Thursday, 30 August 2001, 10.30 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Valdivieso	(Colombia)
Members:	Bangladesh	Mr. Amin
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Ireland	Mr. Corr
	Jamaica	Mr. Ward
	Mali	Mr. Kassé
	Mauritius	Mr. Koonjul
	Norway	Mr. Strømmen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Singapore	Ms. Lee
	Tunisia	Ms. Achouri
	Ukraine	Mr. Kuchinsky
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Hume

Agenda

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

01-52423 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Belgium, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia and Rwanda, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mukongo Ngay (Democratic Republic of the Congo) took a seat at the Council table; Mr. De Ruyt (Belgium), Mr. Andjaba (Namibia) and Mr. Gasana (Rwanda) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of members to the following documents: S/2001/759, letter dated 1 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo addressed to the President of the Security Council; S/2001/774, letter dated 8 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda addressed to the President of the Security Council; and S/2001/815, letter dated 17 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium addressed to Secretary-General.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Annabi to take a seat at the Council table.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Hédi Annabi.

As there is no list of speakers, I would invite those who wish to take the floor to indicate their wish to the Secretariat.

I now give the floor to the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Hédi Annabi.

Mr. Annabi: Since Mr. Kamel Morjane, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, last briefed the Security Council on the situation in that country on 24 July, the Secretary-General has appointed Mr. Amos Namanga Ngongi to succeed Mr. Morjane as his Special Representative. Mr. Ngongi will be arriving in Kinshasa today. As members of the Council are aware, the Secretary-General will himself be visiting the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda starting on 1 September. The Secretary-General will be accompanied by Mr. Guéhenno and other senior Secretariat officials.

The overall situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to be favourable in many respects. The ceasefire along the confrontation line has continued to hold, by and large, since January. The disengagement of forces from the confrontation line and their redeployment to new defensive positions is largely complete. Namibia continues to withdraw its forces from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in accordance with the schedule announced by the Namibian Government. And Uganda has withdrawn significant numbers of troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In addition, the preparatory meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue reached agreement on a time and a place for the actual beginning of the dialogue.

At the same time, there are still a number of areas of concern. Fighting — at least some fighting — continues in the East, primarily in the form of attacks by armed groups that are not signatories to the Lusaka Agreement on the forces of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD) and the Rwandese armed forces (RPA). Serious human rights violations

continue, and the humanitarian conditions for many — in fact, millions — inhabitants of the Democratic Republic of the Congo remain very poor. I will now go into more detail on some of these developments.

On the political side, the preparatory meeting for the inter-Congolese dialogue was held in Gaborone from 20 to 24 August. It was remarkably successful. The parties have agreed to conduct the dialogue in Addis Ababa, starting on 15 October, for an estimated period of some 45 days. Approximately 70 delegates from the Congolese signatory parties to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, as well as from civil society and every province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, took part in the preparatory meeting in Gaborone, which was conducted in a constructive atmosphere.

The Gaborone meeting also resulted in an agreement by the participants on key issues such as the liberalization of political life in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, respect for human rights, release of political prisoners and prisoners of war, freedom of movement of people and goods throughout the country, re-establishment of communication links in the country and the rehabilitation of the infrastructure, restitution of seized property, protection of the population from arbitrary arrests, protection of natural resources from illegal exploitation, and the withdrawal of foreign troops from the country in accordance with the Lusaka Agreement.

Another key development that emerged in the margins of the preparatory talks was the convening of a meeting between President Kabila and rebel leaders, Mr. Jean-Pierre Bemba, of the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC), and Mr. Adolphe Onusumba (RCD). This meeting was facilitated by Sir Ketumile Masire and reportedly contributed in setting the positive tone for the Gaborone talks.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Foreign Minister She Okitundu of the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared that the war in the country had ended, a view which was echoed by many others, including Mr. Bemba, who pledged to pursue the political track. However, reports of harassment of some political opposition delegations on return to Kinshasa demonstrate that many challenges still remain as the date of the dialogue in Addis Ababa approaches.

Over the recent weeks, the two rebel movements have continued to undergo internal leadership and membership changes. The RCD has reportedly expelled 17 of its 51 founding members, while the two movements that together formed the Front du Liberation du Congo (FLC) — that is, the RCD-ML and the MLC — now appear to be drawing apart amid clashes between their respective forces in the Ituri district.

Relations between MONUC and the Congolese parties have generally continued to be satisfactory. The Mission continues in particular to enjoy good cooperation from the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On the other hand, MONUC staff have been subjected to occasional harassment by the RCD in the East, which MONUC has taken up with the authorities concerned on a number of occasions.

Turning to military developments, the disengagement and redeployment of forces in accordance with the Harare plan of 6 December 2000 is complete in two of the four military sectors, with only a handful of sites awaiting verification in sector 1 and sector 4. In fact, a total of 88 of 96 agreed new deployment positions have been verified by MONUC. The delay in completing verification of the remaining sites in Equateur Province — sector 1 — relates to a request by MLC to maintain its civilian administration in order to protect the population from what it fears may be reprisals by Government forces. In sector 4, the RCD has indicated that it does not intend to occupy the remaining four new defensive positions, which is considered acceptable under the Harare subplan.

In the meantime, MONUC continues to insist on the need to demilitarize Kisangani, as demanded by the Security Council in its resolution 1304 (2000). Though the RCD appears willing to discuss the issue, no concrete progress has yet been achieved in this regard.

The parties have reported more than 100 alleged cease-fire violations, which MONUC has sought to investigate. In many cases, inquiries revealed that the allegations could not be substantiated. Moreover, many RCD complaints involve alleged attacks on their forces by armed groups that are not party to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. It should also be noted that the RCD has repeatedly declined to guarantee the security of the unarmed MONUC military observers expected to conduct the investigations, making it impossible, in a number of instances, for MONUC to dispatch such missions.

In the meantime, in agreement with the RCD, MONUC military observer teams were deployed in Uvira and Bukavu earlier this month and received a warm welcome from the population. A reconnaissance mission was also carried out at Beni on 20 August, and the deployment of a United Nations team in that location is taking place as we speak.

On 16 August, a MONUC helicopter came under small-arms fire as it flew from Uvira to Kalemie, sustaining 14 bullet holes. Fortunately — I would say almost miraculously — there were no casualties and the helicopter landed safely. Since the incident, MONUC has taken additional security measures. To date, the identity of the assailant or assailants is unknown, and MONUC has requested the RCD, the local authorities in the area, to investigate the matter. However, this is an area where the armed elements of the Front pour la défence de la démocratie (FDD) are known to operate in significant numbers.

The coordination centres at Ilebo, Basankusu, Boende and Manono are being established, and the deployment of guard units in those locations will start in early October. Council members will recall that this was approved under resolution 1355 (2001). The purpose of these centres is to improve MONUC's logistical support of its operations in the interior of the country, and in particular to enhance the medical evacuation capacity.

MONUC military observers also continue to verify the withdrawal of Namibian forces from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in accordance with the timetable announced by the Namibian Government, which had announced that their forces would be withdrawn before the end of August. The Ugandan armed forces, — the Ugandan People's Defence Force (UPDF) — have also been observed to withdraw from Equateur province. However, the Ugandan Government has announced its intention to retain a presence in Buta and Beni, in the Northeast and North of the country, pending a review of the security situation there.

Turning to human rights, serious violations of fundamental human rights persist throughout the country. On the Government side, opposition political parties still encounter severe restrictions when they seek to undertake political activities. The military court continues to try ordinary cases, despite the Government's declarations to the contrary. The trial has now opened in Likasi, Katanga province, of some 80 persons accused of involvement in the assassination of President Laurent-Désiré Kabila, but human rights groups have complained that the accused have not had access to legal counsel.

In RCD-controlled territory, in north Kivu, the climate of insecurity has also worsened, amid movements by armed groups towards Rwanda. Arbitrary arrests and extra-judicial executions are also continuing in the area. During the course of this month, frequent clashes between RCD forces and armed groups in south Kivu have resulted in killings, looting and population displacement. In MLC-held territory in the north-west of the country, the human rights situation is also reportedly deteriorating.

In general, humanitarian agencies have access to fewer than half of the 2 million internally displaced people in the country because of the prevailing security conditions. Humanitarian assistance activities in Ituri district have been seriously hindered following the killing in April of six relief workers from the International Committee of the Red Cross. Access in south Kivu has deteriorated significantly in the last few months, and in areas where humanitarian agencies have gained access, such as northern Katanga, the population has been found to be in a very bad state, raising concerns over conditions in the areas currently beyond the reach of the humanitarian community.

Reports from Zongo, an MLC-controlled town in Equateur province bordering the Central African Republic, indicate that some 20,000 refugees have crossed into the Democratic Republic of the Congo following recent unrest in Bangui.

On the positive side, the first humanitarian convoy escorted by the MONUC "peace boat" left Kinshasa on 31 July for Mogalo, in Equateur province. The barges were carrying 650 tons of medical, educational and other relief supplies. The convoy is expected to return to Kinshasa on 1 September, with 1,000 tons of corn, to be distributed in the city. MONUC is also working with the parties to establish a quadripartite commission on the use of the river.

MONUC has launched some 35 quick-impact projects. So far, projects totalling some $458,000 have been initiated countrywide, with priority being given to the repair of hospitals and health centres, the provision of medical supplies, the restoration of electricity, water purification and the rehabilitation of schools.

During a visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo this month, Ms. Carol Bellamy, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, launched a second National Polio Immunization Day in the south-western part of the country. The campaign, which is also being conducted simultaneously in Angola, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo, is aimed at halting transmission of the polio virus. During the first round, in July, 9.7 million people — 84 per cent of the targeted population of children under five years of age — were immunized against polio for the first time.

Ms. Bellamy also met with President Kabila and rebel leaders, and they reaffirmed their commitment to discontinue the use of child soldiers and to facilitate the demobilization of children.

In conclusion, I should like to say that MONUC is continuing to plan and prepare for the third phase of its deployment. The Secretary-General intends to revert to the matter in his report to the Security Council in October and, in the light of the cooperation extended by the parties, to make further proposals, as appropriate, to enable the mission to initiate phase III operations.

As we indicated earlier, the tasks that will confront MONUC during its third phase will be very complex and difficult. The difficulties and dangers associated with the disarmament and demobilization of the armed groups, as well as initial indications of the approach that the Secretary-General intends to take in this regard, were outlined in his most recent two reports, including his report of 8 June (S/2001/572). When they signed the Lusaka Agreement, the parties committed themselves to the full withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration of armed groups, that are not party to the Agreement. However, since the parties have not so far provided the necessary information, the precise mechanisms by which armed groups should be disarmed are not yet clear. The full support of all parties will therefore be required to enable the Secretary-General to submit to the Security Council proposals that the Council can support.

In the final analysis, the success of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process will depend on the willingness of the parties to reach agreement on a clear and practicable political framework. During his forthcoming trip, the Secretary-General will encourage the parties to move resolutely in that direction, as it is clear that there can be no military solution to the problem of the armed groups or, for that matter, to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Annabi, for his briefing and for his reference to, among others, Ms. Bellamy.

Mr. Doutriaux (France) (*spoke in French*): I believe that Mr. Annabi's briefing today was timely. As he reminded us, the Secretary-General will be visiting the region in a few days' time, and last week the Gaborone meeting on national dialogue — to which he referred — took place.

I should like to make a few brief comments. The representative of Belgium will be speaking later on behalf of the European Union, and I should like to associate myself with the statement that he will be making.

My comments relate to the Gaborone meeting and the inter-Congolese dialogue, as well as to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, the question of Kisangani, the future deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), humanitarian issues and next steps for the Council.

With regard to the Gaborone meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue, we should like first of all to note the significance of the fact that it took place. The meeting was successful. Agreement was reached on the next meeting, which, as Mr. Annabi said, is to be held in mid-October in Addis Ababa. We should like to pay tribute to President Masire and his team. The Congolese have shown a spirit of compromise and made efforts to work towards national reconciliation. They have all said that they want to put an end to the war, preserve their independence and national unity and, working together, restore democracy. I believe that the international community should draw the appropriate conclusions from the inter-Congolese process and should encourage them by resuming aid and cooperation with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I also believe that the international community should encourage them by resuming aid and cooperation with the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The positive developments in the peace process should be accompanied by progress in the daily lives of the Congolese people, and they need international assistance. I would like to refer to an excellent article by Brian Atwood, the former Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development who recently visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It appeared in the *International Herald Tribune* of 25 August, and was entitled "Congo Is Making Progress and Deserves More Western Help". I think that, in fact, the international community should assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo in its economic and social recovery.

The Secretary-General will visit the region very soon. He will touch upon a number of the issues referred to by Mr. Annabi. He will undoubtedly speak about disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation or resettlement (DDRRR) and confidence-building measures among the parties. Mr. Annabi told us that the peace process has made progress, that the ceasefire has been more or less respected, that progress has been made in disengagement, and that it is now time to move beyond that by implementing the plan for the withdrawal of foreign forces, as was required by an overwhelming majority of the participants in the Gaborone meeting, who demanded the withdrawal of foreign forces.

As Mr. Annabi has said, we need to move forward without delay in the process of DDRRR of armed groups. A plan is now being drafted and finalized. For this plan to be successful, however, we need a political framework and agreement on this DDRRR plan among the main countries involved, beginning with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, as Mr. Annabi said. An agreement will be possible only if trust is established between the leaders of those two countries. The Secretary-General was in contact with those two leaders on the occasion of the Lusaka summit and will see them again in Kinshasa and in Kigali. These leaders need to come together and work together in order to move the DDRRR process forward.

Once the parties have reached full agreement on the details of the political framework, the international community should provide financial and material support and assistance in kind to support the DDRRR programme. We then need to reflect on and provide support for phase III of the MONUC deployment, which Mr. Annabi also mentioned.

The second point Mr. Annabi raised related to the demilitarization of Kisangani. This is an important issue, and the Security Council has made it quite clear that Kisangani needs to be demilitarized, and this is up to the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD-Goma). Resolution 1304 (2000) was very clear on this point. Rwanda and Uganda accepted the terms of that resolution. The next step is to convince RCD-Goma to accept it and to obtain their cooperation, because they alone now have troops in Kisangani. Let me recall that this city has become somewhat symbolic in the peace process. We therefore need to demilitarize Kisangani. The present situation cannot be allowed to continue.

It is not a question of the RCD-Goma evacuating the city. The city needs to be demilitarized, which is a very different matter. That obligation does not affect the civilian presence of the RCD-Goma, which can continue to administer the city until the crisis is resolved. However, the RCD-Goma must withdraw its military forces from the city of Kisangani.

Another point was the importance of the parties continuing to cooperate with MONUC and the question of the future deployment of forces, which was also referred to by Mr. Annabi. Mr. Annabi spoke about cooperation of the parties with MONUC. The Security Council must not accept that United Nations personnel should be subjected to threats and to pressure. This is an important issue that the future deployment of MONUC clearly depends upon. Mr. Annabi has given us useful information, including on the four coordination centres and on the outlook for phase III. We will be calling for the future deployments and an increase in MONUC personnel, especially a gradual deployment in the eastern part of the country.

Mr. Annabi referred also to economic, humanitarian and human rights issues. He said that the economic and humanitarian situation is still disastrous despite the progress already achieved in difficult conditions by the United Nations and non-governmental organizations. The re-opening of the river, to which he referred, will be a breath of fresh air for the Congolese people, allowing for better provision of supplies to the cities. The parties must assist

MONUC in re-establishing river traffic, which is of vital importance for the Congolese people.

With respect to human rights issues, all parties need to continue and do more very strictly to respect human rights in all areas under their control. In liaison with the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Garreton, the Council plans to remain watchful on this issue. There cannot be any settlement or reconciliation if those who violate human rights go unpunished.

Another issue on which the Council has focused is the plundering of resources. In April, we received the report from the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Following the publication of that report, we noted growing awareness by the international community of this plundering, which is considered to be fuelling the conflict and to be one of the reasons for the grave serious human rights violations as a result of the plundering. The Security Council needs to implement appropriate measures to end the illegal exploitation of resources. We hope that the Panel of Experts document to be published this autumn will indicate that progress has been made in this area.

Let me speak briefly about the future timeframe. The Council will continue to follow the question of the Democratic Republic of the Congo very closely. Next week we will meet with Sir Ketumile Masire, the facilitator of the inter-Congolese dialogue. At a later stage, the Council intends again to invite to New York the members of the Political Committee of the Lusaka Agreement, with whom the Council maintains an ongoing dialogue. I think members will recall that they were invited here last February and that during the Security Council mission to the region in May, the Council met all the members of the Political Committee of the Lusaka Agreement.

On the occasion of the special session of the General Assembly on children, we will have an opportunity for further contacts, since I understand that most of the countries of the region will be represented at the very highest level during the summit on children to be held from 19 to 21 September.

In the meantime, we wish complete success to the Secretary-General, who will be going to the region. We understand that his new Special Representative, Mr. Ngongi, will be accompanying him in his travels. We welcome Mr. Ngongi's appointment and arrival. We take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Morjane for his outstanding work, as I told him a few days ago, before the conclusion of his duties in Kinshasa.

Mr. Strømmen (Norway): I thank Mr. Hédi Annabi for, as always, a very useful briefing. The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to a matter of utmost importance and one that the Council must watch closely. After the strides forward earlier this year in terms of the parties' disengagement and the deployment of phase II of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), the picture has remained mixed. We continue to believe that the two key challenges for achieving further progress are, first, to halt all support to the negative forces operating in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and, secondly, to proceed with the inter-Congolese dialogue.

The outcome of the Council's recent approaches to President Kabila and President Kagame respectively indicates a certain lack of political will to advance from the current state of affairs. It also displays the absence of dialogue between the two heads of State. This is regrettable, as much needed progress, with respect in particular to the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation or resettlement (DDRRR) of the armed factions in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, can really be achieved only through political commitment jointly by the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of Rwanda.

While President Kagame has thus far not met with representatives, President Kabila is denying all allegations that his Government is supporting negative forces operating in the East. This issue is of key importance. Needless to say, it makes little sense to talk about disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation or resettlement (DDRRR) if armament is taking place at the same time. We encourage the Secretary-General and Member States with diplomatic missions in the region to keep engaging the parties on this issue. It is vital to re-energize the dialogue between the leaders of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. Let me mention in this regard that my Government is considering a possible voluntary financial contribution to DDRRR activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We would, however, like further information — as indicated above — before taking a final decision.

There have been mixed reports from the preparatory meeting for the inter-Congolese dialogue held in Gaborone last week. It is a positive sign in itself that such a first preparatory meeting has now been convened. From what we understand, the parties at the meeting were also close to reaching an agreement to free all political prisoners and prisoners of war and to return seized property and goods. Hopefully, the upcoming meeting in Addis Ababa will pave the way towards full commencement of the dialogue. We encourage the facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire, and his team to continue their efforts to facilitate an urgent startup of the more substantive aspects of the dialogue.

Norway is deeply concerned about the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Let me just mention that we are concerned in particular about the situation of the many vulnerable children.

Furthermore, and finally, Norway was very concerned to learn that a United Nations helicopter was fired at by unidentified gunmen in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This is the second time a United Nations helicopter has been shot at since the deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). A future update on the progress of the United Nations investigation into this matter, following what we heard the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Annabi, say here today, would be very interesting. Violent actions against MONUC cannot be tolerated under any circumstances.

Mr. Kassé (Mali) (*spoke in French*): Allow me too to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this public briefing on the Democratic Republic of the Congo after the holding of the Gaborone meeting. I would also like to thank the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Hédi Annabi, for his statement.

We have always said that the restoration of peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will depend on the success of the inter-Congolese dialogue. Today, my delegation welcomes the holding and very encouraging results of the Gaborone meeting, which set the time and place for the long-awaited inter-Congolese dialogue, which is so essential to the Lusaka process. We echo those who have said that the Gaborone meeting has breathed new life into the Lusaka peace agreements.

We also note with satisfaction that, in addition to setting the date, venue and rules of procedure for the inter-Congolese dialogue, the Gaborone meeting also made it possible to make major decisions on other problems impeding a political solution to the very complex conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. My delegation would like to congratulate the facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire, who succeeded in organizing a meeting that had increasingly seemed impossible. We would like to convey our congratulations also to all the participants in the Gaborone meeting.

The success of the Gaborone meeting should not make us forget that we have a long way to go before the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo can be called irreversible. It is for that reason that my delegation has constantly called for the launching of the third phase of the deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which should not be held up by the Council.

With regard to questions relating to the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation or resettlement of armed groups, we agree with the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, that the staunch resolve of the Council will be crucial. We have great hopes that progress will be made on this issue during his upcoming visit to the region.

It is imperative that we demonstrate today the credibility and commitment of the Council to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, just as the parties must comply with the Council's demands. We also believe that the Council should continue to encourage the continuation of a dialogue of trust between the leaders of the region, so as to find a final and acceptable solution to the issue of armed groups.

In conclusion, my delegation appeals to the parties to show restraint and to demonstrate a spirit of compromise, responsibility and good faith so that the Addis Ababa meeting to be held on 15 October is a real success that leads to the implementation of the remainder of the Lusaka Agreement.

Mr. Koonjul (Mauritius): We also thank Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, for his comprehensive briefing this morning.

Today's meeting is taking place at a very crucial stage in the peace process. This is an opportunity for us and for other participating States to assess the situation together and to look for ways and means to support and accelerate the return to normalcy, peace and reconciliation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We would also like to welcome the appointment of Mr. Amos Namanga Ngongi as the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We would like to assure him of our full support in the challenging task that awaits him.

We note the positive outcome of the preparatory meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue, which took place from 20 to 24 August at Gaborone. We welcome the decision of those attending the preparatory meeting to reconvene in Addis Ababa in October 2001. A first important step in the right direction has been made by bringing together for the first time since the war broke out, three years ago, the representatives of the Government, the rebel movement, opposition parties and civil society groups. We welcome the free and reconciliatory approach adopted by all the parties signatories to the Lusaka Agreement. This is a clear demonstration of the desire for peace and reconciliation by the Congolese people in general. We commend them for that and encourage them to pursue their efforts.

My delegation expresses its gratitude to Sir Ketumile Masire, the facilitator of the inter-Congolese dialogue, for his relentless efforts in organizing the preparatory meeting. It is now vital that the Council encourage the facilitator and the Congolese people to maintain the present momentum for the next stage of the dialogue itself. Mauritius has all along emphasized the need to ensure an open, representative and all-inclusive process for the dialogue, which should include civil society and Congolese women. We hope that representativity and all-inclusiveness will be maintained.

As preparation for the inter-Congolese dialogue continues, we should not lose sight of other important aspects of the peace process. My delegation considers that the Council will have to address the following issues as a matter of priority.

First, the parties to the Lusaka Agreement should now be urged actively and urgently to finalize their comprehensive plans for the withdrawal of foreign forces and for the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation or resettlement (DDRRR) of armed groups.

Secondly, the DDRRR process should proceed without any further delay. The Council must also start giving due consideration to the issue of the economic recovery of the country to accompany the DDRRR process. While we recognize that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have been sensitized to play an important role in the country's economic recovery, it would perhaps be a positive stride forward if a pledging conference of bilateral and multilateral donors could be held in the near future.

Thirdly, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) will require additional manpower in the important task that it will be called upon to undertake during the third phase. My delegation believes that the next phase should be addressed with all the seriousness it deserves, particularly the issue of MONUC's strength, which we once again emphasize should be compatible with the task it faces.

The complete cessation of the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is an objective that the Council should pursue vigorously. We understand that the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is currently in the region. We call upon all the parties concerned to extend their full cooperation to the Panel. We wish to stress that the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo belong to the people of that country alone. We condemn all illegal exploitation, especially by foreign elements. It is in this spirit that my delegation looks forward to the report of the Panel of Experts.

Notwithstanding the progress made in the peace process, we have still not reached an irreversible situation. We urge all the parties to the Lusaka Agreement to commit themselves fully to implementing the agreement and to refrain from any act that might derail the process. My delegation is

particularly concerned about the recent events and reports that have been brought to our attention, namely, the gunshots at the helicopter used by the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) earlier this month, fortunately without any casualties. We condemn this act, and we appeal to all the parties, signatory and non-signatory of the Lusaka Agreement, to cooperate fully with MONUC.

The status-quo situation in Kisangani needs to be condemned in no uncertain terms. The Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD-Goma) cannot continue defying the relevant Security Council resolutions on the demilitarization of Kisangani. The international community must continue to exert all possible pressure on the RCD-Goma to comply with the Security Council resolutions.

The activities of the armed groups in the east of the country are also matters of serious concern. All support to these armed groups must immediately cease.

There are reports that the Front pour la liberation du Congo (FLC) of Mr. Bemba is not withdrawing from Equateur province as envisaged. We appeal to them to honour their earlier commitment and to withdraw their forces as early as possible.

The dialogue among the leaders of the region, in particular those of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Burundi, seems to have slowed down, if not disappeared. We feel that it is important that leaders of the region communicate with each other as a measure of confidence building. The international community should encourage the leaders to engage in dialogue as often as possible. In this respect, my delegation proposes that the Secretary-General, who will be visiting the region shortly, facilitate more frequent meetings among the leaders.

Finally, my delegation reiterates its appeal for the respect for human rights and humanitarian law all over the Congolese territory. We also call upon the humanitarian agencies to come to the help of those who are needy in the country.

Mr. Ward (Jamaica): Allow me, Mr. President, to congratulate you for convening this informational meeting on the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This meeting is a logical follow-up to our last comprehensive review in July and serves to measure what progress has been achieved since then on all aspects of the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In that regard, we thank Mr. Annabi for his comprehensive briefing on the latest developments in the peace process, which covered all aspects of the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Jamaica welcomes the positive developments in the inter-Congolese dialogue and the plans to convene the first round of talks in October in Addis Ababa. Now that a date and a venue have been set for the dialogue, we encourage all parties to cooperate fully with the facilitator so that the political future of the Democratic Republic of the Congo can be determined. We are well aware that a national dialogue, especially within the context of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is by no means an easy undertaking. In that regard, the spirit of compromise and unity must pervade discussions if a successful outcome is to be achieved.

We welcome agreement by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to begin the dialogue for national reconciliation before the withdrawal of armed groups. We are particularly pleased that President Kabila, Mr. Bemba and the leaders of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD) met on the margins of the Gaborone meeting. Their subsequent statements are indeed encouraging.

While we recognize the need for reconciliation at the level of signatories and parties to the conflict, it must be recognized that civil society, particularly women, must have a key role in the dialogue. We look forward to hearing Sir Ketumile Masire when he meets with the Security Council later. I would like to hear from Mr. Annabi whether there was a positive response to the call for an increase in the number of women delegates to the preparatory meeting.

The reports of the imminent demobilization and disengagement of armed groups are also noted. The Jamaica delegation encourages all armed groups in this regard to cooperate with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) in preparing and implementing plans for disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, repatriation or resettlement (DDRRR) and to cease all forms of cooperation with the negative forces. The DDRRR of the armed groups remain critical to a lasting peace process in the Democratic Republic of the

Congo. We take note of the recent plans of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to take the first steps, and we urge the cooperation of all the groups.

My delegation congratulates Namibia for keeping its commitment to withdraw all its troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo by the end of August. We commend Uganda for its continued withdrawal.

We remain concerned, however, about the distressing reports of recruitment of child soldiers and demand that armed groups desist from such practices. The humanitarian situation, especially in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, remains worrying. The statistics indicate that the internally displaced persons are increasing in large numbers and that the humanitarian response to the humanitarian need is woefully inadequate. While it is commendable that some improvement has been made, the fact remains that more needs to be done in this area. We call upon the armed groups to cooperate fully with humanitarian workers to allow access to populations in need.

Also of great concern to my delegation are the continued reports of gross human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law throughout many parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including areas under the control of the Government. As the reports indicate, perpetrators of these abuses show scant regard for the civilian population and even prevent the delivery of aid to relieve the suffering of the people. This situation is deplorable and cannot be tolerated.

As Mr. Annabi pointed out, military trials continue, and the rights of the accused are not being protected. I must remind all concerned that there can be no peace without justice.

We share in the concerns expressed by others before us of the lack of progress in the demilitarization of Kisangani, and again we appeal to the RCD to cooperate with MONUC. There are signs that the RCD is beginning to cooperate, but there is a long way to go to reach a level of satisfaction. We also call on the RCD to investigate expeditiously the shooting of the MONUC helicopter and to guarantee the safety of MONUC personnel in areas under RCD control.

Finally, my delegation underscores that the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo cannot be resolved without taking into consideration the regional context. In light of this, we again call for the convening of a conference of the Great Lakes region, which we believe is imperative to lasting peace in the area. It is our hope that the spirit of unity, which is beginning to manifest itself in the inter-Congolese dialogue, will be translated at the regional level, thus insuring peace and sustainable development throughout the Great Lakes region.

Mr. Granovsky (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We echo the words of gratitude addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Hédi Annabi, for his important and very informative briefing. The Russian Federation, on the whole, is pleased at the progress made in the peace settlement of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. However fragile progress is there, the situation today in that country is a striking change for the better compared to the picture that we observed but a few months ago.

We take note of the process — which, under the control of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), is now virtually complete — of the disengagement of forces. Some foreign forces have already left the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We welcome the stated intention of the Namibian leadership to complete the withdrawal of their contingent from the Democratic Republic of the Congo by 30 August, and the intensifying dialogue between the leaders of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and those of neighbouring States on the question of ensuring mutual security. Russia supports that process and wishes it every success.

We view the Gaborone preparatory meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue as a momentous event; participants decided on an agenda and a date for the beginning of substantive work. Russia commends the efforts of all parties involved in the preparations for that event, notably the facilitator of the inter-Congolese dialogue, President Masire. Also, we welcome the beginning of direct negotiations between the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the leaders of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD) and the Front de libération du Congo, and the statements they have made, which attest to their intention decisively and irreversibly to abandon the path of war and to embark on that of

dialogue and national reconciliation. We expect that those statements will very soon be translated into concrete action advancing the peace process. For its part, Russia intends to do everything it can to ensure that they have the constant support of the international community.

We believe that among the priority elements is compliance by the RCD leadership with the demand for the demilitarization of Kisangani, as set out in Security Council resolutions 1304 (2000) and 1355 (2001). That is not an end in itself; it is dictated by the broader goal of implementing an overall concept for United Nations peacekeeping operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We hope that, with that in mind, the RCD leadership will radically improve its interaction with MONUC.

It is obvious to us that, as the inter-Congolese dialogue and the regional dialogue move forward on the political aspects of settling the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a task of increasingly high priority will be the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation or resettlement of members of foreign armed groups enumerated in an annex to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.

We reaffirm our position that this process must be voluntary and must have the support of all parties involved in the conflict. We feel that those conditions are a sine qua non for practical United Nations involvement in measures to support the process. We feel that it makes sense from the conceptual point of view to attach high priority to confidence-building in the eastern provinces, where the activities of those armed groups are on the rise. My delegation is prepared to give careful study to appropriate recommendations by the Secretariat on this matter.

In the longer term, we see the prospects for a settlement of this problem in the general context of the democratization of political life and the normalization of inter-ethnic relations in all countries of the Great Lakes region.

We are concerned at the extremely depressing information about the humanitarian and human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We call on all sides to take the steps necessary to redress the situation, and to cooperate with international humanitarian personnel in ensuring access to those who need assistance.

Mr. Corr (Ireland): I wish first to thank you, Mr. President, for arranging today's public briefing on the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I would also like, as others have done, to thank Mr. Annabi for his comprehensive and helpful briefing today, and through him also to thank the Secretariat staff and the personnel of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) for their work in promoting peace and reconciliation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I also join others, on behalf of my delegation, in wishing the Secretary-General every success in his upcoming visit to the region.

Today's briefing, while, as Mr. Annabi said, encouraging in some important respects, also evokes a sense of frustration at the slow pace of progress in some other areas. When the Council mission returned from the Democratic Republic of the Congo at the end of May, we were reasonably optimistic about the prospects for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. During the last open debate on this issue, held on 24 July, we expressed concern at the slow pace of progress and recalled that the future security and prosperity of the region lay in the signatories to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement meeting their obligations.

Today, three months after the Security Council mission and one month after our last debate on this item, there is now clearly a need, building on the real progress about which we have heard this morning, to give further momentum to the process.

I would like briefly to single out for emphasis a few points of concern to my delegation. We regret the absence to date of the political framework necessary for the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation or resettlement of armed groups. In the absence of political will on the part of the signatories themselves, there is only so much that the United Nations or the wider international community can do. We strongly encourage the authorities in Kinshasa and Kigali to work together to take this process forward.

My delegation welcomes the announcement that President Kabila has invited MONUC to inspect the camps where several thousand fighters are reported to be cantoned, and we strongly encourage him to give MONUC access as soon as possible.

It is also time that the parties put forward plans for the orderly withdrawal of all foreign forces from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It is further essential, as has been emphasized this morning, that the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD-Goma) comply with the Security Council's demand for the demilitarization of Kisangani. There must be an end to support, from whatever source, for the activities of armed groups.

The misery and suffering of the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo are deeply shocking and disturbing. We urge the international community to respond generously to their plight. Ireland is also deeply concerned at violations of human rights, and it calls on all parties fully to respect human rights, to uphold the provisions of international humanitarian law and to ensure safe access to populations in need. The exploitation of the resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is a result of the conflict and which contributes to the misery of the population, must cease immediately.

My delegation welcomes the success of the preparatory meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue and warmly commends the efforts of the facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire, and the positive spirit in which all delegations approached the meeting. The success of the dialogue is essential to the long-term peace and stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well to that of the wider region. We look forward to the substantive session of the dialogue starting on 15 October, and to the establishment of viable democratic government in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr. Shen Guofang (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I wish at the outset to thank Mr. Annabi for his briefing. The Chinese delegation is pleased that, thanks to the energetic efforts of the facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire, the preparatory meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue was successfully held at Gaborone from 20 to 24 August and that it yielded positive results. That was a most important meeting.

The final communiqué of the meeting showed that broad agreement had been reached on the timing and venue of the inter-Congolese dialogue, as well as on the scope of the items for discussion. That has laid the foundations for the peace process and it will have a positive impact on the situation in the Great Lakes region. We believe that this success is the result of the common efforts of representatives of all the parties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We commend all the Congolese parties for their willingness to act in the interests of the people and put aside their differences in order to seek common ground. We must, however, recognize that this is only the beginning. The task that remains is onerous. It is a challenge not only for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo but for the countries of the Great Lakes region and the international community as a whole.

The Chinese delegation believes that all the parties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo must continue to consider the overall interests of their nation. The country must continue to make common efforts to seek the path of national reconciliation, which is in the fundamental interests of the people, so that its national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity can be safeguarded and peace and development can be enjoyed as soon as possible.

We believe that the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD) must comply with all the resolutions of the Security Council and quicken the pace of the demilitarization of Kisangani. We also demand the immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the cessation of all assistance to armed groups and an end to the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo so that it can contribute to the peace, stability and development of the whole of the Great Lakes region. The Security Council must continue to make efforts in this regard.

We hope that the international community will fulfil its commitments by providing the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the economic assistance that it urgently needs. This will be important for the peace and stability of that country, as well as for the peace process itself. The timely and orderly deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) is one guarantee of continued progress in the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The second phase of the deployment of MONUC must be completed as soon as possible. In this regard, we demand that all parties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo fully cooperate with MONUC and create conditions necessary for its orderly deployment and the carrying out of its mandate. We hope that the Secretary-General will submit recommendations with regard to the deployment of the third phase of MONUC as soon as possible. At the same time, we suggest that

the Council begin considering the question of the third phase deployment.

Finally, the Chinese delegation highly commends Sir Ketumile Masire for the enormous efforts that he has made in the interests of peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr. Amin (Bangladesh): My delegation appreciated the briefing given by the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Hédi Annabi, which provided the background for our deliberations this morning.

Significant developments have taken place since the most recent meeting of the Council on this subject, in which Ambassador Morjane participated, took place on 24 July. The most important and positive note has come from Gaborone. My delegation pays tribute to Sir Ketumile Masire for the successful holding of the preparatory conference for the inter-Congolese dialogue for national reconciliation. He has secured substantive agreement on issues relating to the dialogue; such progress also strengthens the peace process in general.

We have noted the optimism expressed by Foreign Minister Leonard She Okitundu; we, too, would like to see an effective and final end to the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We have also noted the statement of the leader of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD), Ruberwa, that the guns have fallen silent and that none of the parties will take up arms again. Word of this spirit must be heard throughout the Congo and the Great Lakes region. This optimism, which might seem exuberant at this point in time, must be made a reality.

We have, of course, also taken note of the demands of the rebel movements with regard to the disarming of the so-called negative forces. This is also a demand of the Security Council. It is also an important provision of the Lusaka Agreement. This requirement must be met without any further delay. The Lusaka Agreement and Council resolutions do not provide for any quid pro quo. There is a sequence, however. During our last meeting, Bangladesh joined other members of the Council in reminding the RCD of its obligation to withdraw from Kisangani and its environs in compliance with resolution 1304 (2000). We also called for similar cooperation by the Front de libération du Congo and the Mouvement pour la libération du Congo (FLC/MLC). We join Council members in reiterating these demands once again today.

We are pleased to note that the preparatory conference agreed to start the inter-Congolese dialogue on 15 October in Addis Ababa. It is essential that the momentum created in Gaborone is carried forward to the meeting in Addis Ababa. The intervening period of about one and a half months should be fully utilized by the Congolese parties. It will also be the collective responsibility of the international community to extend all possible assistance and support for the dialogue.

At our most recent meeting on this subject, we stressed that the dialogue must be open, representative, inclusive and free from any outside interference. Bangladesh also underlined the need to allow for the full participation of Congolese civil society. In this regard, I would like to recall the message sent to this Council by Sir Ketumile Masire on the question of the representation of women in the inter-Congolese dialogue. The Council responded positively to his letter, conveying to him the fact that we shared his concerns and his views on the question. We urge the Government and other Congolese parties to give specific attention to this issue as they prepare for the dialogue.

We have always stressed that the dialogue should be owned by the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In this regard, it is encouraging to note — we learned about this from the press — the allocation of $1 million to the fund for the dialogue by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as pledges by armed opposition parties. This is a positive gesture, which deserves to be complemented; the international community should continue to provide support.

We look forward, of course, to a more in-depth briefing from Sir Ketumile Masire himself when the Council holds a meeting with him next week, possibly on 5 September. It is encouraging to note that all the parties to the conflict that gathered in Gaborone called for an immediate withdrawal of foreign forces from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Their call for the release of political prisoners should receive the priority attention of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Another positive signal from the region comes from the cooperation extended to the Panel of Experts on the illegal exploitation of natural resources. We

appreciate the constructive attitude being shown to the Panel by the leadership in the region.

Turning into the United Nations mission, we have noted the progress in the deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), as reported to us by the Assistant Secretary-General. As we said earlier, the size of MONUC does not correspond to the demands of the situation. In his seventh report, the Secretary-General said that at that stage he was not asking for the enlargement of MONUC beyond the authorized strength. During the new stage — which we hope will soon be set up as the parties make progress in disengagement and withdrawal — we shall have to consider the expansion of MONUC. We are in full agreement with France on this question.

The success of the preparatory meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue paves the way for progress in these areas. It is time the United Nations prepared for what it will be required to do in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We have consistently argued that the Council must make a clear commitment to consider expanding the size of MONUC, so that the mission can carry out the tasks assigned to it, as well as the additional tasks it should assume. There is a practical need for the Council to demonstrate a credible presence, determination and commitment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We must not allow any pretext for delaying the withdrawal or return of foreign forces, thus unravelling the peace process.

Finally, the visit of Ms. Carol Bellamy to the Democratic Republic of the Congo was a timely and appropriate initiative. Her visit brought an area of pressing humanitarian concern into the limelight. The children of the Democratic Republic of the Congo are among the most severely affected by the protracted conflict. When we speak of the Congo, we speak of 16 million war-affected individuals, the most suffering among them being the children. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is also the country in which 2.5 million people were killed in approximately three years of war, according to an estimate presented by the International Rescue Committee. The Secretary-General wrote in his eighth report that "among the most disturbing findings is the disproportionate effect of the war on young children" (*S/2001, 572, para. 61*).

In two of the districts surveyed, Moba and Kalemie, the Secretary-General reported, an estimated 75 per cent of children born during the conflict died or were expected to die before their second birthday. For the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the current situation and in post-conflict Congo will be a major undertaking. We hope the organization is mobilizing its resources for that challenging task.

While the United Nations remains committed to supporting the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement, it is incumbent on the Congolese parties, including the armed groups, whether signatories of Lusaka or not, to show respect for the United Nations and its personnel. We condemn in the strongest terms the attacks on a MONUC helicopter near Uvira, and ask for an urgent inquest. We demand an end to the harassment of MONUC personnel. The RCD leadership must stop such acts and ensure cooperation with the United Nations Mission.

Finally, as always we attach great importance to the role of the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General has all our support for his coming visit to the region. We are confident that his visit will give impetus to advancing the peace process and to preparing for the possible high-level meeting in early October, as we deliberate on the next phase of MONUC.

Ms. Lee (Singapore): We too would like to thank the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Annabi, for his useful update on the situation. We congratulate the facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire, and his team on the success of the preparative meeting and express the hope that all parties will continue their constructive approach when the inter-Congolese dialogue begins in Addis Ababa in October. Addis Ababa, as a venue, of course, has its own significance because it is the site of the headquarters of the Organization of African Unity and of its successor body, the African Union. We would like to reiterate the importance of an open, representative and inclusive dialogue by the parties in such an important setting.

The withdrawal of troops by Uganda and Namibia is a step forward. Every step forward fosters confidence and generates its own momentum for the peace process as a whole. However, we note from Mr. Annabi's briefing that military disengagement has not been proceeding well. Although countries in the conflict have officially disengaged their forces, there are reports that indicate that they continue to operate through rebel and militia proxies. We should continue

to put pressure on those found to be undermining the disengagement process. We would also like to emphasize that the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) needs to be given the means to carry out its duties as mandated under resolution 1291 (2000). Furthermore, the parties to the conflict must be made responsible for ensuring that the areas under their control are accessible and safe for MONUC to proceed with its work. The news that another United Nations helicopter was recently shot at is not encouraging.

The Council should also continue to follow the peace process closely and discourage any backsliding. All parties must be made to realize that they are under the close scrutiny of the international community. We note with concern the humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and urge that immediate attention be given to alleviating the plight of civilian victims. The facts show that more than 2 million Congolese have died since the start of the current conflict in 1998 and that many more are in critical need of food and medical attention. We urge aid agencies to intensify their efforts to help those people and again call on the parties to the conflict to allow aid workers safe access in order to carry out their work.

Finally, we would like to assure the Secretary-General's new Special Representative to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr. Amos Namanga Ngongi, of our support as he takes on his functions this month.

Ms. Achouri (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): As all the speakers before me have done, I too wish to thank Mr. Hédi Annabi for the excellent briefing he delivered. It was rich in information and full of good news on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. His briefing focused in particular on recent important developments since our meeting on 24 July.

I am referring especially to the decision taken at the preparatory meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue in Addis Ababa to begin the dialogue next October at Addis Ababa. That agreement seems to signal a decisive turning point in the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to augur a positive outcome for the conflict in that country. All parties are therefore urged to take concrete measures to ensure that the dialogue reaches its ultimate goal, which is the achievement of lasting peace and true national reconciliation. The Security Council must support this endeavour and encourage the parties to embark on this dialogue in the same spirit that prevailed in Gaborone. That was in fact the recommendation made by the Secretary-General when he spoke to the press through his spokesperson, in response to this important development. The Security Council must also continue to follow this matter very closely.

Here, I welcome the initiative of the French delegation to organize next week, when France holds the presidency of the Security Council for September, a meeting with Sir Ketumile Masire, the facilitator of the inter-Congolese dialogue. We hope that that meeting will provide an opportunity for the Council to identify specific ways and means of supporting and encouraging the dialogue and to make the dynamic of inter-Congolese peace and reconciliation irreversible.

I would like also to congratulate the Irish delegation on its initiative in convening the Political Committee when Ireland holds the presidency of the Council in October. We believe that these successive meetings will enable the international community and the Security Council to shoulder their respective responsibilities towards the Congolese people and towards the other peoples and countries of the Great Lakes region.

However, it must be recognized that the restoration of peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo does not depend solely on the inter-Congolese dialogue, however crucial it is to achieving that objective. We welcome the progress reported today in the area of disengagement and redeployment.

We also congratulate Namibia and Uganda on the action they have taken to honour their commitments. But all parties must honour the entirety of the commitments they made in the Lusaka Agreement, the Kampala disengagement plan and the Harare sub-plans. They must also fully abide by the resolutions of the Security Council. Kisangani must be demilitarized in keeping with resolution 1304 (2000). In that regard, the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RDC-G) must meet the Council's demands without precondition or delay.

The disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation or resettlement (DDRRR) of armed groups remains the core issue and will determine progress in other areas. This is a fact that the

Secretary-General pointed out to the Council on 24 July. We are disappointed that little real action has been taken to date in this area. In that regard, my delegation wishes to state that it would have preferred that the initiative by the representatives of countries members of the Council with Presidents Kabila and Kagame on the DDRRR programme had been more conclusive. However, we hope that the Secretary-General's visit, which will include the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, will make it possible to re-establish direct contact between the leaders of those two countries, and that it will mark the beginning of true cooperation towards a political framework, something that is essential to implementing the DDRRR programme.

As the Secretary-General stated at our meeting on 24 July, the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is not yet irreversible. Major challenges remain for the United Nations and for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ngongi — whom we take this opportunity to wish every success. The challenges facing him and the United Nations — both the Secretariat and the Security Council — are daunting.

My delegation welcomes the current efforts by the Secretariat and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to pave the way for a transition to the third phase of the Mission's deployment, a very important phase during which MONUC will require all the resources necessary to carry out the very complex and often dangerous tasks that have been assigned to it. We eagerly await the report on this issue to be submitted in the near future by the Secretary-General. My delegation will support any useful recommendations that the Secretary-General might make in this regard.

The effective, full and speedy withdrawal of foreign forces from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo also remains essential. The illegal exploitation of natural resources and the other wealth of the country must stop as soon as possible. Above all else, the Congolese parties must embark on a dialogue in the best possible frame of mind and without any external interference. As the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Kamel Morjane, has stressed, the countries concerned must demonstrate firm political will and commitment to reconcile their security concerns and the need for regional stability with the basic need to restore the territorial integrity, sovereignty and unity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. That seems to us to be the only way to establish peaceful coexistence, cooperation and development for the peoples of the region, who have for so long been deprived of the peace and security to which they are entitled. We urge all parties concerned to face that fact.

Mr. Eldon (United Kingdom): Being this low on the list of speakers at an open briefing, I think it would be inhumane of me to subject the Council to a long prepared statement, particularly as the Permanent Representative of Belgium will be speaking later on behalf of the European Union. But I want to thank the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Hédi Annabi, for his very useful briefing, which has come at a very appropriate time given the imminence of the Secretary-General's visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the appointment of Mr. Ngongi, whom we wish extremely well.

I also think that there is general consensus about the tone of what we are looking at here, and that there is guarded optimism — but with real problems remaining in a few areas. I think there is also general consensus about what those areas are. I will not recite them again; other speakers have done so. But I just want to pick out a couple of points and ask a couple of questions.

First, like others, I think that the preparatory meeting for the national dialogue that took place in Gaborone has been a considerable success, and of considerable significance. I think congratulations are due to the Congolese political parties, to Congolese civil society and, of course, to the facilitator on a very successful first meeting. I think, as Mr. Annabi has said, the fact that agreement was reached on political prisoners is a very good sign. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all sides to move forward on that issue. If we could come to closure on that, it would be a very significant gesture of good will.

It is obviously good, too, that a date has been set for the first meeting in Addis Ababa. But it is clear — not least from what happened in Gaborone, which was a matter of considerable organizational complexity, just to get the initial phase on the road — that setting up things in Addis Ababa is going to require a considerable administrative effort. I think it would be very good if we could keep a close eye on this, and particularly if the Secretariat could keep a close eye on

it. I think that if the facilitator's office indicates — either when we see Sir Ketumile Masire or subsequently — that additional help is needed, it would be very good if that appeal were not lost on the Secretariat. I would be very interested to hear the comments of the Assistant Secretary-General on that point.

Like others, we too remain concerned about Kisangani. We do see the need for early progress and early action towards demilitarization by the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD-G).

I would now like to talk briefly about disarmament, demobilization durable solutions, reintegration and repatriation, which I think is now known in the Mission area as D-three or D-cubed. That, at least, is easier to say. So I will say it. It is clearly important that the D-three programme move forward, and that it move forward as fast as possible and without necessarily waiting for the third phase of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).

I entirely understand, agree with and take the point that the Assistant Secretary-General has made about the need for a political framework. But at the same time, I think that we should be sensitive to the fact that in some areas it may be inappropriate to expect the parties to do everything themselves.

We hope that the Secretariat and MONUC will be as proactive as they can and will make use of opportunities that may arise to assist the D-three process as they do arise, for example in Kamina.

I would be very interested to hear anything that Mr. Annabi may want to tell us today about progress in planning by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for D-three, because, clearly, we all need to be prepared to make the D-three effort a success. Without early movement on D-three — and I address myself here to the parties — there is a risk that the peace process may collapse.

We also need to resolve quickly the issue of the appointment of the United Nations humanitarian coordinator. It is vital that this role should be filled immediately if the United Nations is going to be able to provide speedy and targeted humanitarian assistance. I hope that that message will be taken away from this Council meeting today. That appointment needs to be made soon.

I was also concerned to hear what Mr. Annabi had to say about the restrictions on access to humanitarian workers in some areas. We naturally hope that those difficulties will be remedied immediately.

Finally, Ambassador Strømmen of Norway raised concerns about the treatment of children, and I would like to conclude my statement by saying that we strongly share those concerns. It is very important, particularly in the light of Carol Bellamy's visit, that all international norms with regard to children should be respected and implemented.

Mr. Kuchinsky (Ukraine): First of all, Mr. President, I would like to thank you for having convened this important meeting on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, at a very crucial stage of the peace process in that country. I wish also to express my delegation's appreciation to the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Hédi Annabi, for his timely, useful and very comprehensive briefing.

As previous speakers rightly noted, the prospects for a successful outcome of the concerted efforts to achieve peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have never been as promising as they are today. Some positive steps have been taken by the parties to reinvigorate the political dialogue, to ensure the implementation of the ceasefire, to enhance the inter-Congolese dialogue and to advance the disengagement and redeployment of forces.

Unfortunately, we cannot state that the peace process has yet reached a point of no return and has become irreversible. The recalcitrance of certain parties and their attempts to preserve the status quo are clear indications of the existing difficulties threatening the peace process.

The precarious situation is still connected with many political, military and social problems, whose solution, in turn, is dependent on the willingness of the sides to implement their commitments under the Lusaka Peace Agreement. In that regard, it is extremely important for the parties concerned to realize that only a comprehensive solution to the problems, accompanied by their readiness for constructive dialogue and compromise, can bring about real results leading to a meaningful settlement of the conflict.

It is with that idea in mind that we welcome the outcome of the long-awaited preparatory meeting on the inter-Congolese dialogue held at Gaborone recently. We share the general assessment that the results of that meeting exceeded the expectations. In that respect, I want to pay tribute to Sir Ketumile Masire and his team for their hard work and efforts to convene the meeting and make it a success.

It is important that the representatives of the Congolese Government, rebels, unarmed opposition and civil society managed to reach a compromise agreement on a number of issues concerning the holding of the inter-Congolese dialogue — one of the key elements of the Lusaka Agreement. We find this very encouraging for the whole peace process. Also promising is the fact that various Congolese representatives have agreed to meet together in October in Addis Ababa and to discuss the outstanding issues. We encourage them to preserve the spirit of Gaborone during the time left before the actual beginning of the inter-Congolese dialogue and to refrain from any actions that could undermine the progress achieved thus far.

Moreover, progress in the inter-Congolese dialogue should be accompanied by progress in the implementation of other aspects of the Lusaka accord, namely the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation or resettlement of armed groups. Appropriate measures in that regard constitute fundamental criteria for a lasting peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the region as a whole.

As for the issue of armed groups, whose attacks and violent actions have threatened the peace efforts, we think that there is an urgent need for a visionary strategy with a view, in particular, to establishing an effective ceasefire throughout the whole Congolese territory, and to remobilizing all parties in the implementation of their obligations in accordance with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.

We continue to be deeply concerned over the delay in the demilitarization of Kisangani, which today remains among the major obstacles to the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Following Rwanda and Uganda, the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD-Goma) must now abide by that commitment without further delay. We call again on all those who have influence over the RCD-Goma to convey that demand and to finally achieve this decisive step in the peace process.

My delegation strongly believes that the Security Council should make a clear commitment, in line with its policy, to consider expanding the size of United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), so that the mission can carry out in full the tasks assigned to it as well as additional tasks. We are certain that there is a practical need for the Council to demonstrate a credible presence, determination and commitment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We have seen in Sierra Leone the difference that a credible United Nations presence can make.

We again call upon all the parties to leave behind needless ambitions and to engage in the realization of the Lusaka accord. We believe that only the pursuit of dialogue and effective cooperation to strengthen the climate of trust among the parties will make it possible to overcome their reluctance and doubts concerning one another. It is therefore with satisfaction and hope that we look forward to the continuation of contacts and dialogue among the leaders of the region.

Finally, I would like to stress once again that, in order to be effective, any peace process must be accompanied by economic assistance. In that context, we welcome the launching of the economic dimension of MONUC, with the resumption of navigation on the Congo river. My delegation reiterates the appeal made to the donor community to establish local projects of rapid impact, so as to improve the daily lives of the Congolese.

Mr. Hume (United States of America): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this meeting, which we see as a prelude to an important set of Security Council deliberations on the crisis in the Great Lakes region. We are glad to see that your delegation has been working with those of the next two Presidents in order to ensure that these issues remain at the forefront of our work. I would also like to thank the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Annabi, for his briefing.

I would like to mention briefly that we have noted the changing of the guard in the Congo from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Morjane, who certainly carried the United Nations

flag high. We offer our very best wishes to the new Special Representative, Mr. Ngongi, and to those serving with him.

The implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement has been a roller coaster ride. On the positive side, we have seen deployed the first elements of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), and the ceasefire and disengagement lines are holding. There has been progress on the withdrawal of some foreign forces, but the forces of the principal belligerents remain in place. The recent preparatory meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue was an important milestone — one that my delegation looks forward to discussing in the Council's open meeting with President Masire.

On the negative side, the humanitarian and human rights situation in the Congo has not improved; this is an area of great concern. The negative forces continue to receive arms, and we are witnessing a dangerous escalation of fighting in South Kivu. We heard this morning about the possibility of new violence in the Ituri district. We are deeply concerned about the offensive in South Kivu by members of the former Rwandan Armed Forces (ex-FAR) and Interahamwe, as well as about the fact that those forces appear to be receiving support from elements in the Government. This fighting will impede, not encourage, the peace process, as surely must be evident to all.

Although the people of Kisangani have been spared the ravages of renewed fighting, their city has yet to be demilitarized. Finally, we have yet to see a credible plan; such a plan must be based on a regional political consensus for the disarming and demobilization of negative forces, in particular the ex-FAR and Interahamwe.

We are pleased that the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, will soon visit Kinshasa, Kigali and Kisangani and that he will take with him the new Special Representative. The Secretary-General's trip raises the critical question of whether we have arrived at the point of transition to phase III of MONUC's concept of operations. We look forward to his trip and to his report following the trip, which we hope will discuss some of the issues that I shall mention. The withdrawal of foreign forces and the disarmament and demobilization of negative forces are closely related concerns that test the political will of the parties. We look forward to hearing the Secretary-General's best judgement on how to move them forward.

The United States Government is eager to see MONUC play a role in the voluntary disarmament and demobilization of negative forces, but we will look to other international entities to plan and execute the repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of any individuals not under indictment by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. This will obviously require close coordination among MONUC, other United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and Governments in the region. We hope that United Nations planning will go hand-in-hand with that of the Joint Military Commission and Governments in the region.

The Secretary-General helped to sustain a process of bilateral dialogue between President Kagame and President Kabila. The Security Council mission to the region last spring identified this as a critical diplomatic channel that needed to be strengthened. When the two Presidents were here eight months ago, Ambassador Cunningham told them that the United States Government believed that they had a common interest in ensuring that the territory of the Congo was not used by negative forces to destabilize the region. Our message, which we have consistently repeated in public and in private, is that the long-term security interests of both countries would best be addressed through a policy of cooperation.

We hope that the Secretary-General will again stress the need for bilateral contacts between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of Rwanda. Such contacts should include those at the level of head of State, but these should also be mirrored in contacts between the senior military and diplomatic leadership of both countries. We believe that the pursuit of common long-term security interests is critical to accomplishing the military tasks laid out in the Lusaka Agreement.

In response to three separate incidents of Rwandan and Ugandan fighting in Kisangani, the Security Council demanded, in resolution 1304 (2000), the demilitarization of the city. We hope that the Secretary-General will raise that issue while he is in Kisangani, and also when he is in Kigali and Kinshasa. While the Security Council resolution calls for the demilitarization of Kisangani, the Kampala disengagement plan gives the Rassemblement

congolais pour la démocratie (RCD-Goma) the right to administer the town until new national structures can assume that function. As we have heard today, the demand in resolution 1304 (2000) for the demilitarization of Kisangani remains the unanimous position of the Security Council. We hope that the Secretary-General and his new Special Representative can launch the process of implementing that resolution, preferably in close cooperation with the RCD leadership.

Finally, we hope that the Secretary-General will be able to work with the Government of the Congo to name and dispatch a United Nations humanitarian coordinator. I think one of the striking things in the briefing today was that, despite progress in other areas, there really has been no meaningful progress in taking people out of the risky situation that they have been in for too long in the Congo. We think that getting the right kind of leadership on the ground, in cooperation with the Government of the Congo, will give hope to people, particularly in war-torn areas. We know that our partners in the international relief community feel acutely the lack of such leadership, and we hope that this situation will be resolved as soon as possible.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I should now like to make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Colombia.

My delegation would like to thank the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Hédi Annabi, for his extensive briefing on the current situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We were very encouraged by the positive signs to which he referred with regard to the observance of the ceasefire, the disengagement of forces and the gradual withdrawal of foreign troops from Congolese territory. Above all, however, we welcome the positive results of the first preparatory meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue, held from 20 to 24 August, on which the facilitator, former President Ketumile Masire, will report to the Council next week. In our contacts with his office during August, we have noted his readiness to meet with the Council on 5 September.

The agreement to hold a dialogue, starting on 15 October in Addis Ababa, with the full participation of the Congolese parties signatories to the Lusaka Agreement and representatives of the various forces in the country, is a positive development.

With regard to the briefing provided by Mr. Annabi, I would also like to emphasize the disturbing aspects of the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Combat is still occurring in the eastern part of the country in operations promoted by rebel groups that have not signed the Lusaka Agreement. Difficulties persist in the demilitarization of Kisangani despite the efforts of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to maintain a dialogue with the representatives of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD).

However, the humanitarian situation is reason for our greater concern, and on this we agree with the various delegations who have spoken. We especially wish to underline the sense of the visit of Ms. Carol Bellamy of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo this month. We regret that she was not able to join us at this meeting due to her participation in the Conference against Racism being held in South Africa starting this week. Her visit contributed to highlighting the needs of minors in this conflict, particularly the access of humanitarian organizations to restricted areas where there are people living at serious risk, and the recruitment of child soldiers on both sides of the border. For this reason, we wish to congratulate UNICEF for this initiative.

Finally, I would like to underline the importance of the visit by the Secretary-General to the area beginning next week, accompanied by his new Special Representative and the head of MONUC, Mr. Amos Namanga Ngongi. We hope that results of this visit help to maintain the positive direction events in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are taking.

In conclusion, I want to add the voice of my delegation to the desire of the Congolese people, expressed by Congolese Foreign Minister, Leonard Okitundu, in Gaborone last week, when he stated that the war in the Congo had ended. This is the aspiration of my delegation and of all the members of the Security Council.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council. I now call on the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr. Mukongo Ngay (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, at a time when your presidency of the Security Council is reaching its end, I have the pleasant duty to convey to you my heartfelt congratulations and say how very much my delegation admires the excellent quality of the work you have accomplished during the deliberations of the Security Council during the month of August.

I would also like to congratulate the Permanent Representative of China, your predecessor, for having successfully guided the discussion of very complex items before the Council in July.

Since we are all eagerly awaiting the launching of phase III of the deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), I would like to take this opportunity in addressing the Council today to convey the encouragement of my delegation and of the entire Congolese people to those whose dedication to the cause of peace has allowed the opening of a real window of opportunity in the peace process in my country. This window of opportunity, unless it is closed, will enable us to see in the very near future the end of a war that has torn my country apart for more than three years.

This honour is due particularly to Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who has personally intervened in relations with donor and troop-contributing countries and with the African Union in their tireless efforts towards peace in my country.

The present moment is also an opportunity to pay well-deserved tribute to Ambassador Kamel Morjane, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. His leadership at the head of MONUC was crowned with success after successfully dealing with several turbulent areas, especially during the deployment of military liaison officers in the rear of the various military headquarters and during the deployment of the military observers while carrying out phase II of MONUC.

On behalf of my Government, I welcome the arrival at the head of MONUC of its new leader, Mr. Amos Namanga Ngongi. I am sure that upon taking over his duties, he will diligently work for the scrupulous application of the various resolutions and recommendations of the Security Council and for a massive, rapid and complete deployment of MONUC under phase III of the operation, thereby justifying the confidence the Secretary-General has placed in him and responding to the well-known expectations of the Congolese people.

I also wish to congratulate the facilitator Sir Ketumile Masire for the success of the Gaborone meeting.

As for the members of the Council, everyone is aware that the involvement of the Council and the international community in the peace efforts in my country has enabled several advances. However, it must also be recognized that the Council could have done better.

Allow me to remind you that the eyes of the international community are now upon you. You are called on to meet a great challenge, that of exercising the prerogatives of the United Nations Charter to restore the rights of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its people, which have been abused by three years of barbaric and pointless aggression.

You are accordingly obliged to act in keeping with all your relevant resolutions, from resolution 1234 (1999) of 9 April 1999 through resolution 1335 (2001) of 15 June 2001. You also have recourse to the basic principles of the San Francisco Declaration of 26 June 1945, which are the very basis of the United Nations Charter and introduce the peoples of the entire world to the rule of international law by upholding the respect due to the dignity of human beings, the protection of freedoms, the affirmation of equality, independence and the sovereignty of States.

Today, more than every before, the need to demilitarize the city of Kisangani is a priority. My delegation notes with surprise that it is precisely now, when the Congolese people most greatly aspire to peace, that certain individuals have chosen to deliberately delay the peace process in my country. There is especially the persistent refusal of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-Goma (RCD-Goma) to demilitarize the city of Kisangani, despite the many resolutions of the Council urging it to do so. It is the Council's responsibility to take note of this refusal and to impose on RCD-Goma the measures prescribed in previous resolutions.

As a prime witness of the martyrdom and the suffering of the Congolese people, and as a political and physical symbol of renewal and the restoration of

the dignity of an entire people, Kisangani must be completely demilitarized in order to eliminate the effects of the profound trauma suffered by the people since the serious clashes in the streets of the city between the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) and the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF).

Moreover, my delegation notes with regret that despite the commitment made at the eleventh session of the Political Committee, one of the parties has still not completed its redeployment and disengagement along the new defensive positions as defined by the Harare subplans, in violation of resolution 1341 (2001) and 1355 (2001) of the Council. This has prevented my Government from undertaking its responsibilities, particularly in the establishment of a civil administration in the areas to be evacuated adjacent to the disengagement line.

This deliberate stalling has held up the complete implementation of phase II of MONUC's deployment, while in accordance with the spirit of the Lusaka Agreement, the Congolese people is already well along the path of dialogue. My Government believes that now is the ideal time for the Security Council to fully assume its responsibilities and to translate into action its many resolutions on the situation in my country, particularly by ordering the quick launching of phase III of the deployment of MONUC, which must accompany the withdrawal of troops of aggression and other foreign forces from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Throughout the whole of the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo — from Goma to Matadi, from Gbadolite to Lubumbashi, from Ikela to Kikwit, from Mbuji-Mayi to Yangambi and from Kinshasa to Kisangani — the Congolese people cherish the unity, independence and national sovereignty of their country. They are weary of the effects of a futile and pointless war of aggression that was imposed on them by surprise. The preparatory meeting for the inter-Congolese dialogue, whose work ended last Friday, attests to the ardent desire of a people for peace and for progress towards national reconciliation and a culture of democratic values that will allow them to begin work on the daunting task of national reconstruction while all along respecting political diversity, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

As the Council is aware, the open-mindedness demonstrated by my country since the coming to power of the President of the Republic, Major-General Joseph Kabila, has been for all the Congolese people an indication of renewed confidence among all the parties. My Government's presence at the Gaborone meeting was proof, if any were needed, of our determination to seriously consider the question of the inter-Congolese dialogue.

As announced by my Foreign Minister, Mr. Léonard She Okitundu, at a press conference held in Kinshasa on Monday, 27 August 2001, generally speaking one can deduce from the pre-dialogue work done at Gaborone that there is a clear desire to return to peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo — beginning with the withdrawal of foreign troops. On can also deduce an emotional, patriotic appeal for unity, national concord and reconciliation among all of the sons and daughters of the Democratic Republic of the Congo — conditions that would ultimately lead to the holding of free, transparent and democratic elections.

The work done at Gaborone did indeed produce encouraging and significant results, including the setting of 15 October as the date for the commencement of dialogue at Addis Ababa. In addition, the rules of procedure for the national dialogue, the agenda, the declaration on the withdrawal of foreign troops and the Republican Pact were also concluded. It is now up to the Security Council to support this will and to take this opportunity to secure the immediate, unconditional, total and final withdrawal of Rwandan, Ugandan, Burundian and other occupying forces from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. That should be done in conformity with the order to withdraw contained in resolution 1304 (2000), and should make it possible for the sons and daughters of the country to air wash dirty linen in private.

With regard to the security concerns put forth by the aggressor countries, my Government has opted to deprive those countries of all diversionary tactics aimed at prolonging the occupation of the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and at justifying the continuation of the hostilities, which make possible the illicit plunder and exploitation of the natural resources and other riches of our country.

It is for that reason that, although it has been attacked in flagrant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, my country

reiterates its willingness peacefully and conclusively to resolve the conflict stemming from the three aggressor countries. My country has no hidden agenda vis-à-vis the aggressor countries. I can assure the Council that my Government will not allow its national territory to serve as a base for launching operations to destabilize neighbouring countries with which it lives amicably. I would therefore like to announce to the Council today that in a few days my country, which takes seriously the security demands of Rwanda, will be calling in the ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to announce to them the necessary cantonment measures we have undertaken in the framework of the plans for disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and resettlement or repatriation (DDRRR). We will in due course invite the United Nations and the Security Council to certify this and to help us implement the DDRRR measures proposed under the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.

With regard to human rights, the points made by Special Rapporteur Roberto Garretón after his recent visit to the country are still relevant. That is particularly the case with regard to his conclusion that progress has been made by the Government in the area of human rights. Nevertheless, he was not wrong in deploring the situation in the territories under occupation, where killings are still taking place — killings he ascribes to the Congolese rebels and their Rwandan and Ugandan allies.

At a time when many people were focussing on Gaborone, where the preparatory work for the inter-Congolese dialogue took place, the machine to exterminate the Congolese people, guided by the aggressor countries, has not stopped functioning. Massacres, kidnappings and deportations of Congolese people have continued apace. According to a press release from the non-governmental organization *SOS droits de l'homme en catastrophe*, which operates in South Kivu, a total of nine people were summarily executed between 2 and 3 August 2001 by elements of the Rwandan Patriotic Army in the city of Uvira. Between January and July of this year 108 people were killed in that city by Rwandan troops. Most of them were young people between the ages of 20 and 30 years of age, but children as young as three were also killed. A total of 85 young Congolese persons were recently arrested by elements of the Rwandan Army. That figure includes the disappearances of 47 persons from Buriba and 38 from Kiliba, in North Kivu. According to the Missionary Service News Agency (MISNA), they were deported to Rwanda. Given these repeated offences by the aggressor countries, immediate withdrawal from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is an indispensable condition for the restoration of peace and the improvement the human rights situation in that part of the country.

With regard to humanitarian matters, all the reports made by humanitarian agencies about the Congo agree that the current conflict has caused what the Prime Minister of Belgium refers to as one of the worst humanitarian disasters the world has ever seen. Three years of war have pushed my country down to the one-hundred and fifty-second place out of the 174 countries surveyed in the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Index. That means we have dropped 12 places.

The consequences of that situation are well known. Over 2.5 million people have died. Over 2 million people have become internally displaced, most of them being children separated from their families. Over 16 million people are in desperate need of food aid, while 18.5 million people lack access to medical services. Given this situation, my Government calls upon the Security Council to take into account the very relevant recommendations made recently by the non-governmental groups Oxfam, Save the Children and Christian Aid.

My Government, which has always given its full cooperation to opening up humanitarian corridors, also calls upon the Council to step up pressure on those who continue to impede the work of humanitarian organizations, so as to improve the access of humanitarian workers to heretofore largely inaccessible regions and to allow for the distribution of assistance and the counting of displaced people within each province. It will also be necessary to open up humanitarian corridors to restore commercial links between Kinshasa and the eastern and northern provinces, in accordance with the plan of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

With regard to the economic aspects of the situation, my Government welcomes the initiative taken by the Security Council to call for the Bretton Woods institutions to carry out 40 quick-impact projects in areas where contingents of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic

Republic of the Congo (MONUC) have been deployed. This is a matter of urgency. Ultimately, however, the Council will have to discuss how to include appropriate post-conflict management of the current crisis in plans for the return of lasting peace.

In the light of the progress made in the political inter-Congolese negotiations — all our hopes now being pinned on 15 October — and with a view to implementing the promising plans worked out by the Political Committee for the total withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, my Government believes that launching phase III of MONUC's deployment should not be further delayed. This was the thrust of the joint appeal made recently in Windhoek by President Joseph Kabila, of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and President Sam Nujoma, of Namibia, calling on MONUC to speed up its deployment.

In conclusion, I should like to reiterate the commitment of my Government to comply with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement as well as with all relevant resolutions of the Security Council on the situation in my country. Therefore, I call upon the Council to take note of the determination that was clearly expressed at the end of the Gaborone meeting by the representatives of all parties to the inter-Congolese political negotiations, who spoke of the urgent need for foreign forces to withdraw from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They unanimously launched an urgent appeal to the United Nations to speed up the withdrawal process in order to enable the Congolese to work to rebuild their country.

My country has made good-neighbourliness one of the guiding principles of its foreign policy, and we intend to live in peace with our neighbours. As our head of State, His Excellency Major-General Joseph Kabila, said at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights, in Geneva, it is still possible for us to build a better world for the traumatized peoples of the Great Lakes region. Our meagre resources should be used for the development of our countries and for the well-being of our peoples, not for waging war.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the kind words he addressed to me.

The next speaker on my list is the representative of Belgium. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. De Ruyt (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia — and the associated countries of Cyprus, Malta and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

First of all, I would like to thank the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Annabi, for his excellent briefing.

If, as he has underscored, the ceasefire has held for several months in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, developments on the ground have in part been disappointing since the Council's July debate. There is, however, a glimmer of hope to be seen in the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement: the success of the preparatory meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue, recently held in Gaborone. That success has been highlighted by most of the speakers.

The European Union would like once again to emphasize the importance of the inter-Congolese dialogue, which is a key element for the re-establishment of the rule of law, democracy and national sovereignty in the Congo. That the meeting was attended by President Joseph Kabila, political movements and representatives of civil society shows the Congolese people's resolve to take charge of their own future and to work together for the establishment of a new political order. The success of the meeting also crowns the preparatory efforts of the facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire, and his team. We hope that the spirit of Gaborone will give impetus to the peace process.

Admittedly, Gaborone is only a first step. It is important that it now be followed up in practice and that the dialogue proper, which will start on 15 October in Addis Ababa, go hand in hand with and stimulate other aspects of the Lusaka Agreement. The parties have displayed a constructive spirit. They need to maintain it and to show political courage and creativity if this historic opportunity for national reconciliation is to be seized and fully utilized. As the representative of the United Kingdom pointed out, the international community, and the United Nations in particular, must

stand by the Congolese people throughout the process. The European Union and its member States have already contributed to facilitation work and are prepared to continue their support.

We cannot congratulate ourselves on similar progress on the question of disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation or resettlement (DDRRR). While the exercise is indeed complex, it remains one of the pillars for resolving the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The European Union, as the representative of France pointed out, is convinced that a solution to this delicate problem would be within reach if a sincere and courageous bilateral dialogue between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda were developed. Despite discreet contacts between President Kabila and President Kagame, we have the impression that a climate of mistrust continues to prevail between the two countries. We therefore invite the Secretary-General — as other speakers have done, notably the representative of the United States — to call upon President Kabila and President Kagame during his trip to step up dialogue and seek mutually acceptable solutions. In the meantime, it is of the utmost importance that negative forces not receive any material or logistic support.

It is equally important for the overall settlement of the Congolese issue that President Kabila and President Buyoya discuss the presence of Burundian rebels in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The European Union emphasizes that the international community's action on DDRRR needs to be coordinated, and it is up to the United Nations to take the lead. The United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) is already authorized to assist with DDRRR within the limits of its resources. According to how the situation evolves, the configuration, mandate and strength of the mission will have to be adapted so that it can provide decisive support in the implementation of a precise and detailed plan for that purpose.

For the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement, innovative arrangements and formats have been established for consultation and cooperation between the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the countries of the region. The meeting between the Security Council and the Lusaka Political Committee in February 2001 proved productive. We understand that a similar meeting is planned in the near future. The European Union welcomes this and hopes that cooperation in New York will be matched on the ground by creative initiatives such as the co-location of the Joint Military Commission (JMC) and MONUC headquarters in Kinshasa.

The European Union reaffirms once again that only a political solution can bring peace to the Congo and lay the foundation for the reconstruction and economic recovery of the region. Abandoning the military option will make possible an increase in aid and international cooperation. The European Union has declared its readiness to mobilize sizeable resources. Such assistance, which could amount to as much as 120 million euros, will be made available in the light of tangible progress in the peace process and in the inter-Congolese dialogue.

As we stated here together a month ago following Ambassador Morjane's briefing, the peace process has not become irreversible. The intervening month has proved particularly disappointing in this regard. Suffice it to mention the situation in Kisangani, which has still not been demilitarized, in spite of the Council's resolutions, or the incomplete state of disengagement, or certain problems encountered by MONUC, such as the unacceptable attack on a MONUC helicopter in eastern Congo. We again call on the parties to honour in full the commitments voluntarily entered into by them in signing the Lusaka Agreement and the other agreements that followed.

The international community — and the Security Council in particular — must continue to keep a close watch on developments on the ground, seize upon any openings as they arise and step in when the situation threatens to get out of hand. The Secretary-General's visit is a significant sign of his personal involvement and of the attention which the Organization continues to pay to the conflict in the Great Lakes region. The European Union wishes the Secretary-General every success in that important mission. We also wish every success to Mr. Ngongi, the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General, who in the next few days will be taking over the tasks of Ambassador Morjane, whom I would like once more to congratulate and thank.

For its part, following bilateral visits in August 2001 by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hubert Védrine, and the United Kingdom Secretary of

State for International Development, Clare Short, the Union will be sending to the region, in September 2001, its current President, the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Louis Michel, and the European Union High Representative, Javier Solana. That visit will reaffirm the European Union's strong commitment to the peace process and its solidarity with the region's long-suffering people.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The next speaker is the representative of Namibia. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Andjaba (Namibia): I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for arranging this important meeting. I wish also to thank Mr. Annabi for the comprehensive briefing that he gave this morning. It was clear from the briefing that good progress has been made on a number of fronts in the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, although there remain some issues of concern. Those concerns include the security situation in the East of the country and the dire humanitarian situation. We are particularly concerned about the suffering of innocent women and children.

In that connection, my delegation welcomes the aid provided and the pledges made by the international community aimed at alleviating the humanitarian situation and helping the economic recovery of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We commend the United Nations Children's Fund for the important work that it is doing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We call on the international community to continue, and to expand, its assistance, given the seriousness of the situation and the large-scale destruction that took place during the war.

It is important for all the parties to fulfil their commitments and obligations in accordance with the terms of the Lusaka Agreement and relevant Security Council resolutions. In that regard, the continued occupation of Kisangani by the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie is deplorable; the Security Council should do everything in its power to ensure that the city of Kisangani is demilitarized, as called for in resolution 1304 (2000).

As indicated by Mr. Annabi this morning, the withdrawal of Namibian troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo is on schedule and is proceeding well.

My delegation welcomes the successful outcome of the preparatory meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue, which took place in Gaborone, Botswana. My delegation is happy to note that the parties were able to agree on a venue and date for the dialogue. We trust that women and groups representing them will actively participate in the forthcoming meetings. In that regard, we commend the facilitator of the dialogue, Sir Ketumile Masire, for his untiring efforts to make the dialogue a success.

My delegation welcomes and fully supports the forthcoming visit of the Secretary-General to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region in general. We trust that this visit will provide a further impetus to the peace process. We also welcome and support his new Special Representative, Mr. Ngongi, and wish him all the best in his work. We pledge our full support to him.

My delegation furthermore hopes that the Security Council will soon approve the phase III deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and that, when considering the mandate and size of phase III, it will take full account of the enormity of the conflict and the vastness of the country. We believe that the Council must act swiftly to support the positive developments in the peace process.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes once again to pay special tribute to the outgoing Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Morjane, for the commendable work that he has done for the Democratic Republic of the Congo peace process.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The next speaker is the representative of Rwanda. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Gasana (Rwanda) (*spoke in French*): Rwanda would like to congratulate you, our colleague and friend, Ambassador Alfonso Valdivieso, the representative of that friendly country Colombia, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of August. We welcome the outstanding quality of the work of this body, the result of your great intellectual and diplomatic skills.

We greatly appreciate the briefing that Mr. Annabi, the Assistant Secretary-General for

Peacekeeping Operations, provided. I believe that his analyses, suggestions and proposals aimed at strengthening the ceasefire in the region and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and at creating a climate of mutual trust and confidence deserve close attention.

Rwanda welcomes the initiatives taken by the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, to achieve peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and throughout the Great Lakes region. In this context, it will be an honour for us to welcome the Secretary-General and Mrs. Nane Annan, as well as the members of the important delegation that will be accompanying him, to Kigali on 3 and 4 September. We are steadfastly determined to support the endeavours of the Secretary-General, and we hope that all the efforts that he will undertake to resolve the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will meet with success. We will contribute to the best of our ability.

Rwanda also welcomes the success of the preparatory meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue, held in Gaborone, Botswana. We congratulate Sir Ketumile Masire, former head of State of Botswana, for his tireless and wise efforts, which, as the Council knows, have been severely tested time and time again — though wisdom has prevailed. If today we are pleased with the success of this pre-inter-Congolese dialogue in Gaborone, I believe it is the fruit of that wisdom which we recognize today, which President Masire has displayed. We thank him for it, and we are all at his side. The benefits of the success of the pre-inter-Congolese dialogue belong, first of all, to the Congolese themselves, of all political leanings — the Government, rebels, the unarmed opposition, civil society, the people as a whole, without any political or ethnic exclusion.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, that great country with some 50 million people, has considerable human potential. There are intellectuals of a high level; there are very talented political men. Unfortunately, after 32 years of Mobutu's dictatorship, these people were silenced, paralysed, frozen. Now the sun has risen, and the human warmth that has always been a strong point of the Congolese people is again evident. They are working hand in hand to set their country on the right course, thanks to this inter-Congolese dialogue.

The nine neighbouring countries of the Democratic Republic of the Congo are certainly the second beneficiary of this inter-Congolese dialogue. As a result of this inter-Congolese dialogue the Democratic Republic of the Congo will, we hope, have representative political leadership able to manage and administer this large country and to set up mechanisms for exercising political power and to keep the entire Congolese territory under control.

In this way the Congolese and neighbouring countries will be reassured that there will be governmental interlocutors who can rise to the task of administering the Congolese territory. In this way the Congolese territory will no longer be used as a rear base for attacks by negative forces, including the planners and implementers of the Rwandan genocide who carried out their infamous acts in the countries neighbouring the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including Rwanda. This is how, at least in part, the sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be assured.

The other beneficiaries of the upcoming inter-Congolese dialogue will be the international community, which will heave a sigh of relief to see, finally, a positive outcome to the Congolese crisis, so that international solidarity can prevail to promote economic and social development in the Great Lakes region and Africa as a whole.

Perhaps, Mr. President, you will tell me that this is all well and good. That is quite true; it is very good, but we must never lose sight for one moment of the fact that we Rwandans have had our inter-Rwandese dialogue, which lasted some two years in Arusha. That dialogue led to an outstanding text, an unequalled document which Rwanda sorely needed, but the fateful moment came when one of the political leaders of Rwanda, the late President Habyarimana, a signatory to this text, as soon as he had signed it simply called it, publicly, a piece of paper. He was in a province in the north of Rwanda, where he was holding a public meeting. He stated there that he and his followers, the Interahamwe militia and the former members of the Rwandan armed forces, would come down like lightning and strike anyone in their path, reducing them to dust. Everything disappeared in a flash — the text, everything. And in this view of the whole world.

We hope that unfortunate event — which was due to poor political leadership in Rwanda at the time, after

our dialogue — which we experienced will never, ever happen to our neighbours and brothers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We wish them every success in this inter-Congolese dialogue, and we hope that the agreements they sign at the African Union, in Addis Ababa, will all be implemented in full sincerity and openness for the good of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and for the Congolese people as a whole.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Rwanda for the kind words addressed to the presidency.

I shall now give the floor to Mr. Annabi to respond to the comments he has heard here.

Mr. Annabi: I will of course convey the good wishes of the members of the Council to the Secretary-General as he sets out on his trip to Kinshasa and Kigali on 1 September. I will also convey your good wishes to Mr. Ngongi, the incoming Special Representative. And of course, I will gladly pass on to Mr. Morjane the words of appreciation expressed here by Council members and others for the excellent work done during his tenure.

The first question, I think, was from Ambassador Ward and related to the participation of Congolese women in the inter-Congolese dialogue. As Council members are aware, this is an issue that President Masire feels very strongly about. I must confess that, on the basis of the reports we have received from Gaborone, the participation of women in the Gaborone meeting was not very good. We hope President Masire's appeals, and the appeals of this Council, will be heard and that Congolese women will be more adequately represented at the meeting in Addis Ababa. We certainly hope that will be the case.

The next question related to the assistance that the Secretariat might be able to provide to President Masire in the organization of the dialogue scheduled for next month in Addis Ababa. As Council members are aware, MONUC and the Secretariat are providing support to President Masire, in terms of both posts and logistic support. In fact, a good number — if not a large number — of the participants in the Gaborone meeting were flown there on MONUC airplanes. We have scheduled a meeting with President Masire on 5 September to see what more we can do to assist and support his efforts, of course within the constraints imposed on us by the United Nations rules and regulations and MONUC's budget. We will continue, especially in terms of logistics support, to do what we can to support his efforts, which are obviously essential to the settlement of this problem.

There was a question by Ambassador Eldon regarding the planning for the "three Ds", as he called them. Indeed, our colleagues in MONUC have arbitrarily decided to use a different acronym and to move from "DDRRR" to the three Ds, which stand for "disarmament, demobilization and durable solutions", which is perhaps simpler. I want to assure Ambassador Eldon that, as it is in fact authorized to do under resolution 1355 (2001), MONUC will take advantage of opportunities for DDR as they arise. In fact, we are working on a two-pronged strategy.

First, in the short-term, we are doing what we can to build capacity to enable MONUC to respond effectively to requests for early disarmament by groups that the Government has reportedly already assembled in two camps in Katanga and Bas-Congo, respectively. But, so far, MONUC has not had access to those camps. We are nevertheless prepared to assist in that regard.

The second aspect of this strategy looks at the longer term. This strategy will be based on an increased presence in the east, starting with the Kindu-Goma-Kalemie triangle and spreading beyond that to other areas in North and South Kivu. This strategy will include the implementation of confidence-building measures, which we feel will be essential before the gradual implementation of a DDR programme. As we speak, an integrated planning team has just spent the last 10 days in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to gather the information we need for further planning. As the Council knows, that information has so far not been forthcoming from the parties, despite the commitments made in that regard. That team has also been trying to advance the planning process. They will be returning to New York in the coming days.

I must repeat that, in the final analysis, the armed groups that need to disarm and demobilize will also need to know how they will be dealt with and what opportunities will be offered to them to reintegrate usefully into civilian life. That is why we need what I call a political framework, or a basic political understanding between the leaders concerned, with a coordination mechanism so that we can elaborate a programme in which these people can feel confident

that they can participate. There will of course always be hardcore elements that are more relevant for an international tribunal than for DDR and that may not participate. But for the others I think we need to define a programme on the basis of a political framework that offers genuine opportunities and assurances to those who will be reintegrated, repatriated or resettled, as the case may be.

I think this covers most of the questions that were raised.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Mr. Annabi for his presence and participation.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4362

Security Council

Fifty-sixth year

Provisional

4362nd meeting

Friday, 31 August 2001, 10.15 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Fernández de Soto	(Colombia)
Members:	Bangladesh	Mr. Chowdhury
	China	Mr. Wang Yingfan
	France	Mr. Florent
	Ireland	Mr. Corr
	Jamaica	Mr. Ward
	Mali	Mr. Kassé
	Mauritius	Mr. Koonjul
	Norway	Mr. Strømmen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Singapore	Mr. Mahbubani
	Tunisia	Mr. Jerandi
	Ukraine	Mr. Krokhmal
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Hume

Agenda

Small arms

Letter dated 25 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2001/732*).

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

01-52536 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Small arms

Letter dated 25 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2001/732)

The President *(spoke in Spanish)*: The Security Council will now resume its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council reaffirms the statement of its President of 24 September 1999 (S/PRST/1999/28) and its resolution 1209 (1998) of 19 November 1998, and notes with grave concern that the destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons in many regions of the world increases the intensity and duration of armed conflicts, undermines the sustainability of peace agreements, impedes the success of peace-building, frustrates efforts aimed at the prevention of armed conflict, hinders considerably the provision of humanitarian assistance, and compromises the effectiveness of the Security Council in discharging its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council expresses grave concern at the harmful impact of small arms and light weapons on civilians in situations of armed conflict, particularly on vulnerable groups such as women and children, and recalls in this regard its resolutions 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000 and 1314 (2000) of 11 August 2000.

"The Security Council further notes with satisfaction the growing awareness within the international community of the problem of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons as a challenge that involves security, humanitarian and development dimensions. In this regard the Council welcomes recent global and regional initiatives such as the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; the document on small arms and light weapons adopted by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); the resolution on small arms of the Council of Ministers of the European Union; the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons; and the extension of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Moratorium on the Production and Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.

"The Security Council welcomes the adoption of the Programme of Action of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and calls on all Member States to take the required measures to promptly implement the recommendations contained therein. The Council recognizes its responsibility in assisting in the implementation of this Programme of Action and stresses that the success of this Programme depends on the political will and efforts of Member States to implement its measures at the national, regional and global levels, as well as on the provision of international cooperation and assistance and on the follow-up agreed by the Conference, including the convening of a review conference no later than 2006.

"The Security Council reaffirms the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and, subject to the Charter, the right of each State to import, produce and retain small arms and light weapons for its self-defence and security needs. Bearing in mind the considerable volume of licit trade in small arms and light weapons, the Council underlines the vital importance of effective national regulations and controls for this trade. In this

regard, arms-exporting countries should exercise the highest degree of responsibility in small arms and light weapons transactions, and all countries have the responsibility to prevent their illegal diversion and re-export, so as to stem the leakage of legal weapons to illegal markets. The Security Council also stresses the importance of international cooperation to enable States to identify and trace in a timely and reliable manner illicit small arms and light weapons.

"The Security Council underlines the importance of practical disarmament measures in averting armed conflicts and encourages States and relevant international and regional organizations to facilitate the appropriate cooperation of civil society actors in activities related to the prevention and combating of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, including facilitating greater awareness and better understanding of the nature and scope of this problem.

"The Security Council recognizes the important role of regional and subregional organizations in providing useful information and perspectives on the regional and subregional dimensions that characterize arms flows to conflicts, and underscores the importance of regional agreements and cooperation in this regard.

"The Security Council emphasizes the importance of the effective collection and control of small arms and light weapons and of their storage and destruction, as appropriate, in the context of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes, as well as other measures that may contribute to the effective disposal of small arms and light weapons and to prevention of their spreading to other regions. To this end, the Council welcomes the publication by the Secretary-General of the Handbook on Environmentally Sound Methods of Destruction of Small Arms, Light Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives. The Council stresses the importance of incorporating, on a case-by-case basis, in the negotiation, consolidation and implementation of peace agreements, as well as in the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations, appropriate provisions for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, taking into account the special needs of child soldiers.

"The Security Council reiterates its call for the effective implementation of arms embargoes imposed by the Council in its relevant resolutions, and encourages Member States to provide the Sanctions Committees with available information on alleged violations of arms embargoes. The Council expresses its determination to continue to improve the efficiency of the arms embargoes imposed by the Council on a case-by-case basis, including through the establishment of specific monitoring mechanisms or similar arrangements as appropriate. The Council stresses the need to engage the relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations, business and financial institutions and other actors at the international, regional and local levels to contribute to the implementation of arms embargoes.

"The Security Council stresses the need for cooperation and sharing of information among Member States and among the different Sanctions Committees on arms traffickers who have violated arms embargoes established by the Council. This information could also be provided to Interpol's International Weapons and Explosives Tracking System (IWETS) database or any other relevant database that may be developed for this purpose.

"The Security Council stresses the need for innovative strategies to address the relationship between the illicit exploitation of natural and other resources and the purchase of and trade in illegal weapons in those situations under its consideration. The Council expresses its intention to continue to consider employing effective measures to prevent the illicit exploitation of natural and other resources from fuelling those conflicts. In this regard, information on financial or other transactions fuelling the illicit flow of arms to those conflicts should be made available to the Council.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to include in his reports regarding relevant situations under consideration

in the Council, analytical assessments on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including, to the extent possible and within available resources, the availability, stockpiling, lines of supply, brokering, transportation arrangements and financial networks for these weapons, as well as their humanitarian impact, especially on children.

"The Security Council recognizes the role of the Secretary-General in supporting the coordination of all United Nations activities to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. In this connection, the Security Council requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council by September 2002 containing specific recommendations on ways and means in which the Council may contribute to dealing with the question of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in situations under its consideration, taking into account the views of Member States, recent experiences in the field and the contents of this statement."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2001/21.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.4363

Security Council

Fifty-sixth year

Provisional

4363rd meeting

Friday, 31 August 2001, 10.30 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Fernández de Soto	(Colombia)
Members:	Bangladesh	Mr. Amin
	China	Mr. Wang Yingfan
	France	Mr. Doutriaux
	Ireland	Mr. Corr
	Jamaica	Mr. Ward
	Mali	Mr. Kassé
	Mauritius	Mr. Koonjul
	Norway	Mr. Strømmen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Singapore	Mr. Mahbubani
	Tunisia	Mr. Jerandi
	Ukraine	Mr. Kuchinsky
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Eldon
	United States of America	Mr. Hume

Agenda

Wrap up discussion on the work of the Security Council for the current month

Letter dated 27 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2001/822).

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

01-52542 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Wrap-up discussion on the work of the Security Council for the current month

Letter dated 27 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2001/822)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I would like to remind members of the Council of the objectives and suggested issues for this meeting. Generally, this meeting will provide an unusual opportunity to access critically the ways and means used by the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security.

More specifically, however, in keeping with the annex to the letter circulated by Ambassador Valdivieso, this meeting will attempt to reflect on the particular experiences of the work of the Council during the month of August that may contribute to enhancing the quality and political relevance of the work of the Council in the immediate future, and, secondly, to reaffirm monthly presidencies as interconnected and interdependent occurrences and not as isolated happenings.

In that context, Council members may wish to refer to lessons arising from the consideration of this month's agenda as well as to procedural issues such as the conduct of the work of the month — transparency, the provisional programme and schedules — the quality and pertinence of the oral briefings presented to the Council by the Secretariat and, possibly, the contents of the report of the Security Council to the General Assembly. In addition, Council members may wish to refer to the usefulness of meetings such as the one convened this month on regional approaches to conflict management in Africa.

I invite members of the Council to contribute to the discussion with brief, frank, focused and pointed statements, preferably on the issues outlined just a moment ago.

As President of the Council, I must point out that Colombia does not believe that this meeting is an opportunity to reiterate national positions on substantive items discussed during the month. With this brief introduction I shall now give the floor to members of the Council who have expressed a desire to speak.

Mr. Mahbubani (Singapore): Please allow me to begin by expressing our personal delight at seeing you back in the Chair, Mr. Minister. We know that you have a busy schedule, and we are very glad that you have taken time from it to be here with us. We are also very pleased that you have organized this wrap-up meeting, because we think that it can be a very useful addition to the work of the Council. Let me also say that we were supposed to have a very quiet, sleepy month in August, but it turned out to be quite busy and hectic.

Following your suggestion, Mr. President, that we should make brief, focused, frank interventions, I will confine myself to making three points and will not cover the whole agenda for the month. I wanted to highlight the following three points because I thought they were noteworthy. Perhaps the wider membership might want to take note of these events that took place during your presidency.

Let me begin with the discussions that took place early this month at the Princeton Club on regional approaches to conflict management in Africa. Here again, Sir, I commend you for participating personally in that meeting. I found those discussions useful in at least two ways. First, in terms of procedure, it was an eye-opener that if you take the same group of people and move them to a slightly different location without this formal setting, you can have a much more substantive discussion. I thought that the discussions that we held on that day were far more candid than most of those that we have had in this Chamber. Therefore, I think that this was a useful innovation, which, I hope, other presidencies will carry on. As you yourself said, Sir, these presidencies are interconnected. So where we have useful innovations in one presidency, we hope that they will be carried forward in the future.

That discussion was useful not just in procedural but also in substantive terms. One of the key conclusions that I brought back from the discussion that morning was that if we are going to find solutions to many of the key, difficult items on our agenda, we cannot just view them nationally. We have to view them regionally. The classic cases that were mentioned that morning at the Princeton Club included West Africa, where the problems of Sierra Leone and Liberia and the Mano River Union area flow into each other, and we have to take a regional approach. Of course, the mission that the Secretary-General sent, which was led by Assistant Secretary-General Ibrahima Fall, reconfirmed that regional approaches are needed. Of course, you need a similar regional approach in the Great Lakes region. That is something that I think the Council has taken cognizance of.

One other point along those lines is that these regional approaches should not be confined only to Africa. They can be extended to other regions. Frankly, in the last two months, we have had another vivid lesson of this, when we saw how the problems in Kosovo had spilled over into Macedonia. By just focusing on Kosovo in our discussions, perhaps we missed the regional dimension. I hope that the discussion you organized at the Princeton Club, Sir, will leave a lasting legacy of guiding the Council always to factor in the regional dimension in its deliberations.

Secondly, I would like to commend Colombia's presidency for completing work on the resolution on prevention of armed conflict. As we all know, that was a commendable initiative by the delegation of Bangladesh. The number of hours that Bangladesh has put in to ensure that the resolution was completed is amazing, and we would like to commend that delegation. But there is one small point that we would like to draw to the attention of non-members of the Council, which is one small paragraph: the eighteenth preambular paragraph. I would like to read it aloud. It reads as follows:

> "Reiterating the shared commitment to save people from the ravages of armed conflicts, acknowledging the lessons to be learned for all concerned from the failure of preventive efforts that preceded such tragedies as the genocide in Rwanda (S/1999/1257) and the massacre in Srebrenica (A/54/549), and resolving to take appropriate action within its competence, combined with the efforts of Member States, to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies". (*resolution 1366 (2001)*)

That is, in our view, a very significant paragraph, because, frankly, the track record of this Council on conflict prevention has not been a glorious one. It has failed to spot many conflicts and serious situations. I think that the commitment that we made in that resolution as a whole, and also in this particular paragraph, is something that members of the Council should take note of. Non-members too should take note of it, because they should remind the Council that this is a commitment that it has taken on board by adopting this resolution.

My third and final point refers to the discussion we had yesterday afternoon in informal consultations. I do not know whether it was intended to be really substantive or pro forma, but I thought we ended up having a very substantive and meaningful discussion of the meeting that took place among the representatives of Bangladesh, the United Kingdom and Colombia, who represented the Security Council in the 13 June meeting with the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council.

I flag this because, as we all know, many of the discussions that take place in the informal consultations are leaked, and sometimes we are uncomfortable about that. But this time, I hope that the discussions will be fully leaked to everybody, because we actually had many useful interventions. I will not soon forget the rather eloquent intervention by Ambassador Ward — which we are used to — and the passionate intervention by Ambassador Wegger Strømmen — which we are not used to – on the subject we discussed.

I think it is important for us not to see these discussions just as theoretical sessions, but as sessions that should over time have an impact on the actual work of the Council with a view to improving its working methods. Clearly, this institution, like any other, is not perfect. It is a human institution; it needs improvement. I thought that many useful suggestions for improvements were put forward yesterday, and I hope that some way will be found, as part of the President's principle of interconnected presidencies, to use some of the ideas from that discussion for future

presidencies. Of course, we are specifically looking to the presidency of France in September.

At the end of the discussion there was no decision, but I was pleased that there seemed to be a kind of implicit commitment that, first, we should try to complete the tremendous work that Ambassador Chowdhury has done in the working group on sanctions. Ambassador Chowdhury has put in an enormous number of hours. I think the time has come to bring his work to fruition, and I hope that will happen in September. And secondly, as suggested by one colleague — either France or the United Kingdom, I believe — if we are going to discuss the question of the speakers' list, it should be referred to the informal working group on documentation and other procedural questions. I hope that too will be done.

Those were just two minor results of the discussion yesterday. The larger discussion yesterday was about how we can ensure that the Security Council is perceived by the rest of the United Nations community to be dynamic and to be changing in response to the needs of the day, and in response to all the feedback we are getting from the rest of the United Nations community.

Once again, Sir, we congratulate you on a very successful presidency.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Singapore for the kind words he addressed to my delegation.

Mr. Wang Yingfan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): We welcome you, Sir, as you preside over today's wrap-up discussion. The Chinese delegation appreciates the work of Ambassador Valdivieso and congratulates him on his successful presidency this month.

The Security Council considered a number of agenda items in accordance with a well-prepared plan and in a coordinated orderly manner. Notably, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Mr. Fernández de Soto, personally presided over the Council's open debate on small arms, on the basis of which the Council today adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2001/21). We greatly appreciate Colombia's efforts on that issue and the role it has played.

Africa was one focus of the Security Council's work in August. Beyond the Council's consultations on some of the hot spots in that region, members also held a meeting with the International Peace Academy on regional approaches to conflict management in Africa. Ambassador Mahbubani made reference to this, and I endorse his views on the subject. China too attached great importance to that meeting and hopes that its positive outcome will be effectively implemented.

I wish also to state my views on the open debate on Palestinian-Israeli violence, a debate which was timely and necessary. The Council bears responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It should take prompt and active measures in response to the deteriorating situation, and should help to quell the violence and to maintain peace and security in the Middle East. Especially over the past few months, the Council spent a great deal of time consulting on a draft resolution on the prevention of armed conflict. But faced with an actual conflict, the Council ought not to stand idly by. I need hardly ask what kind of impression that would leave with the international community.

But following the open debate on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the Council did not play its proper role, which was regrettable. I must put on record that this was not the fault of the President.

I wish in conclusion to note that Ambassador Valdivieso, as Chairman of the Afghanistan sanctions committee, has done a great deal to bring the Afghan issue to the attention of the Council, and we greatly appreciate his efforts in that regard. We look forward to the Council maintaining the momentum in its consideration of the Afghan issue.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of China for the kind words he addressed to my delegation.

Mr. Lavrov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I endorse the words of welcome addressed to you, Mr. President. We are very happy to see you here, and are very pleased at the constant attention you devote to the work of the Security Council.

As the President requested, we will not repeat the substance of our positions on the items discussed by the Security Council in August. I wish only to say that characteristics of Colombia's presidency of the Security Council were clarity in the organization of our work, a highly rational style, and persistence in working to attain the goals that had been set.

It was not possible, of course, to attain those goals on all the issues that were before the Council. Ambassador Wang Yingfan has just mentioned one example of where the Security Council was unable to reach a decision. But in most cases, as I said, the August presidency succeeded in obtaining results.

We are pleased also to note that all meetings of the Security Council, both formal meetings and consultations, had sensible, well-thought-out agendas setting out specific issues, not general or theoretical considerations. That is of particular importance to my delegation; we have constantly argued in favour of such an approach to the Council's activities. We would not like the Council to duplicate debates held in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council or other bodies. We are grateful that, as President, Colombia drew a clear line between the competencies of the Security Council and those of other intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations.

A very good example of this is the statement that the Council has just issued on small arms. In July of this year, hardly a month ago, a conference was held on this problem, and it adopted a final document. It seemed that it would be very difficult for the Security Council not to repeat what had already been done at that conference. Nevertheless, the statement that we issued today has a specific nature that is unique to the Security Council. It does not duplicate the decisions of the General Assembly. It defines ways that the Security Council can in the future contribute to addressing this problem in accordance with its mandate and without impinging on the competence of other bodies. The substantial discussions on the problem of small arms and light weapons — discussions which you presided over, Sir — contributed greatly to this outcome.

I will limit myself to these remarks. In conclusion, once again I would like to congratulate and sincerely thank the entire Colombian delegation, Ambassador Valdivieso and yourself, Mr. Minister, for the attention you have given to the work of the Security Council in August. This has contributed greatly to the successful outcome of our work.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of the Russian Federation for the kind words he has addressed to the Colombian minister, Ambassador Valdivieso and our mission.

Mr. Strømmen (Norway): Let me start by commending you, Sir, for the manner in which Colombia has conducted the presidency of the Security Council during the month of August and by saying how pleased I am to see you, Mr. Foreign Minister, chairing the Council this morning.

I have a few points to make. Colombia's maintaining a balanced approach to the work of the Council and delivering on the agenda established at the beginning of the month has been important. Yet at the same time, your presidency has displayed flexibility in taking up emerging issues in an appropriate manner. Following your example, emerging issues should to the extent possible be tackled without compromising or delaying the consideration of matters that have already been scheduled on the Council's agenda. Unfortunately, we have on previous occasions seen examples of a certain degree of marginalization of already scheduled matters. Sometimes this is indeed unavoidable. However, Colombia has demonstrated this month that it is possible to cover all bases.

Let me also commend you for having convened an informal working session this month on regional approaches to conflict management in Africa. This is a very interesting topic in itself, and given the importance of finding ways to more effectively address peace and security in Africa, it was absolutely timely. We believe that the largely interconnected nature of conflicts and their root causes in that part of the world must be borne in mind in order to arrive at effective and sustainable solutions. Furthermore, this type of working session, involving a broad range of actors from within and outside the United Nations system, is conducive to open-minded and comprehensive exchanges of information and views.

In a similar manner, the Arria formula meetings — allowing non-governmental organizations, special rapporteurs and others to brief and interact with Council members — are important and should continue to be used to broaden the scope of the background information made available to us.

The thematic issue — small arms — that you wisely chose for the month of August is of great importance for security, humanitarian and development conditions worldwide. Practical disarmament measures are indispensable to any peace-building mission and are also a necessity in order to avoid regional spillover effects in conflict areas. You have our full support in the future process of tackling the issue of small arms.

As a more general note, let me underscore the importance and necessity of the selected thematic issues having co-sponsors in the Council in order to ensure their follow-up. This need illustrates the high degree to which monthly presidencies must be seen as interconnected and interdependent.

Regarding the presidential statement issued today concerning small arms, I must, however, confess that in our view the text is somewhat voluminous and therefore unnecessarily cumbersome to comprehend. In order to maximize political impact we should strive to make our statements more condensed and focused in the future. This is a general observation and, needless to say, has nothing to do with the subject matter at hand.

On all issues, the Council must above all act in a results-oriented fashion. The Council must respond swiftly to major developments concerning international peace and security in all cases where doing so can positively influence the efforts for peace on the ground. In order to have maximum influence, it is important that the Council speak with a unified voice. When divisions in the Council are displayed, its influence can only be diminished. In this regard, I commend your delegation once again for having facilitated an expedient and unanimous response by the Council to the signing of the Framework Agreement concerning Macedonia on 13 August.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Norway for his kind words.

Mr. Ward (Jamaica): First, I extend my congratulations to you, Sir, to Ambassador Valdivieso, your delegation and to Colombia for the excellent manner in which the affairs of the Security Council were conducted during the month of August. I also thank Ambassador Valdivieso for providing guidelines for today's wrap-up session.

In keeping with your request, I will restrict my comments to the issues mooted in your paper. First, on the meeting at the Princeton Club on regional approaches to conflict management in Africa, I will say that meetings such as this one afford members of the Security Council an opportunity to expansively discuss issues of great importance to the Council, while benefiting from the perspective of outside expertise. The Council's knowledge base is increased by these experiences.

Perhaps there are two ways to increase the benefit from these meetings. One would be for Council members to be accompanied at these meetings by their experts on the subject matter. A second would be for a substantive report on the meeting to be prepared and distributed to members shortly following the meeting.

My second point is on friends groups. At the wrap-up session at the end of June, the delegation of Singapore raised questions concerning the modus operandi of the so-called friends groups. Singapore's call for a discussion of this issue was supported by Ireland and Jamaica. The concerns remain, and two months have passed without a substantive discussion of this issue. If there are valid reasons to retain the current practice, then it is incumbent on the proponents to be prepared to explain those reasons to the Council.

Regarding the Secretariat's briefing notes, I will note that members of the Council have in the past requested the Secretariat to make available the briefing notes for consultations of the whole. The Secretariat's response has been the circulation of background notes, which have proven quite useful but which lack the analysis provided during the briefings. We maintain that it would be worthwhile to renew our request to the Secretariat for notes that contain analysis.

On the question of cooperation between presidencies, while to the outside world the operations of the Security Council seem a continuous process, there is indeed a hiatus between presidencies, except when there is an urgent need for a meeting in the first few days of the month. The culture of the Security Council is for each delegation to seek to leave an impression on the work of the Council. Each presidency, for the most part, controls to a large extent the programme of work and sets its own objective. This may be in the form of a thematic issue: promoting transparency, reforming the practices and procedures of the Council, focusing attention on a particular conflict or region, a combination of these, or simply maintaining the status quo.

We have seen, however, cooperation from one presidency to the next in the planning for Security Council missions or special meetings. We have also seen carryover negotiations of outcome documents. For example, the Bangladesh presidency held a meeting on the prevention of armed conflict, subsequently introduced a draft resolution, and led the negotiations on a text and its adoption two presidencies later. We

also have the cooperation currently taking place between the future presidencies of France and Ireland on the proposed meeting of the Council with the Lusaka political committee. These and similar initiatives should be encouraged.

The next item we would like to comment on is the threat or use of the veto. The data will show that the veto is not often used in the Security Council. That data, however, belies the fact that the mere presence of the threat of the veto or its possible use more often than not determines the way the Council conducts its business. The mere threat of the veto can be used for narrow political interests, to the detriment of the Council in carrying out its responsibilities to the international community. We should seek to avoid this.

My delegation holds the veto to be undemocratic. It is even more so when the mere threat of its use stymies even a serious discussion of possible action to be taken on an issue. As recently as last week, due to the mere threat of the veto, the Council failed to consider meaningful action on the issue of the occupied Palestinian territories. As elected members of the Council, we must ask ourselves whether we surrender to such threatened use of the veto or if we pursue our objectives without fear of its use. Should we allow others to hide behind the threatened use of the veto to lock the Council into non-action? It is my view that, at a minimum, the permanent members of the Council have an obligation to require full discussion of the substance of any issue on which another permanent member has threatened a veto before the issue is appropriately discussed.

Finally, the value of the wrap-up session we are having today will be greatly enhanced by the President's decision to prepare a summary of the discussions for distribution to Council members. I trust it will be available to all Members of the United Nations. It is my hope that the Council will set aside time for meaningful discussions of some of the issues raised today and that solutions will be found for the problems identified. For example, a meeting such as the one at the Princeton Club may be a useful format for dealing with some of these issues in the future.

The President *(spoke in Spanish)*: I thank the representative of Jamaica for his kind words addressed to my delegation.

Mr. Kassé (Mali) *(spoke in French)*: Allow me, Mr. Minister, to tell you how satisfied my delegation is at seeing you preside over our meeting. Mr. President, I would like to thank you for having organized this meeting. I shall confine myself to one single point that is of interest to my delegation.

Today, in seeking to increase the effectiveness of the Council, we have to work in the direction of improving and streamlining our relationship with other organs of the United Nations, the regional organizations and the troop-contributing countries. On the whole, these relationships are not negative; the Security Council is becoming more and more transparent and more open to partnerships. But it is true that we can always do more to improve the effectiveness of the Council and thus strengthen our relationships with our partners.

Resolution 1353 (2001), which is the outcome of the working group chaired by Ambassador Ward of Jamaica — and we congratulate him once again — is a very good foundation. Let us examine it carefully and not waste any time in implementing it, with the active participation of the troop-contributing countries, who are our partners from now on.

As the Council, we must encourage regular meetings with other United Nations bodies and the regional organizations. Here, I must pay tribute, Mr. President, to your initiative in organizing the seminar on regional approaches in Africa. The meeting on 13 June between the three ambassadors of the Council and the working group on reform was also extremely positive. We must continue to speak candidly among ourselves, because reform is an issue that concerns all Member States.

This is what my delegation wishes to say today. Once again, please allow me to congratulate you very warmly, Mr. President, as well as your excellent team on the Council and, of course, the one that won the Copa americana.

The President *(spoke in Spanish)*: I thank the representative of Mali. I particularly appreciated the latter part of your congratulations.

Mr. Kuchinsky (Ukraine): Let me first of all congratulate Ambassador Valdivieso and the delegation of Colombia on the successful conclusion of the presidency. Thank you for the efficient and professional performance of your presidential duties that facilitated our work this month and contributed

greatly to the constructive consideration of the issues on the Council's agenda.

One should recognize that in this month the Council effectively continued applying in its work all the good traditions and innovative approaches that have evolved over the past years, thus strengthening and building upon the trend toward greater transparency and better working methods developed in the successive presidencies.

I would particularly like to note here the holding of the informal policy forum devoted to the deliberations on regional approaches to managing conflicts in Africa. This informal gathering allowed Council members to have an open and frank exchange of views on the pros and cons of the strategies that the Council adopts. We believe that such informal debates and brainstorming sessions are very useful and should be continued.

We cannot but mention here the initiative of the Colombian presidency to hold an open Council debate on small arms, following the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. This timely event — with wide participation among Members of the United Nations — and the adoption of the presidential statement once again highlighted the areas where the Council has a role to play in addressing the issue of small arms.

As far as the Secretariat's briefings are concerned, we particularly welcome what has almost become a customary practice — the circulation of briefings and briefing notes before the Council hears the Secretariat's briefing and considers the agenda item. We would encourage the Secretariat to apply such an approach to all agenda items under consideration.

We regard yesterday's adoption of resolution 1366 (2001), which was based on the Secretary-General's report on the prevention of armed conflict (S/2001/574) and which followed up the debate held in June, to be among the major positive results that the Council achieved in August. In our judgement, that resolution is a noteworthy document in which the Council recognizes the importance of a conflict-prevention strategy and outlines the ways to implement a number of the Secretary-General's recommendations relating to the role of the Security Council and other players. Now it is important to make the resolution work.

The record of the Council will always be mixed. There are, of course, successes; sometimes there are failures. In our view, one of the major events for the Council in the past month — this was mentioned by some earlier speakers — was the urgent meeting held on 20 and 21 August on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The tragic course of events in that region required an immediate reaction on the part of the Council, and the convening of the meeting by the President at the request of the Islamic group was timely and was the right decision.

The effectiveness of the Council's reaction to the situation was, however, once again undermined by its inability to act. It is truly regrettable that the Council demonstrated that it was not in a position to reach a unanimous decision on an outcome document following that urgent meeting. The inability of the Council to adopt such a decision aimed at putting a stop to the ongoing violence and bloodshed in the Palestinian territory and in Israel and at bringing the parties back to the negotiating table can really be viewed as the failure of the Security Council as a body to fulfil its Charter obligations. It did not serve the Council's image well, and it sent a very wrong signal to the parties on the ground.

I have deliberately not touched in my statement on the issue of the contents of the report of the Security Council to the General Assembly, as mentioned in the paper on the wrap-up meeting. It is evident that over the past several years, steps have been taken to improve both the contents and the format of the Council's report. Yet a lot remains to be done to make it better and — no less important — reader-friendly. Many options may be explored here, from asking the Secretary-General to prepare a yearly assessment, as suggested by some Council members during our previous consultations, to streamlining specific chapters and paragraphs of the report. I do not think that such a discussion would be useful without the participation of the wider United Nations membership, to which the reports are directed. But it is important that we hold a separate discussion within the Council following the review of the report in the General Assembly to consider in a practical manner concerns and proposals voiced during the Assembly's debate.

I also wish to lend my full support to what was said by Ambassador Mahbubani and other speakers regarding the importance of finalizing, hopefully within the next month, the work on the draft report of

the working group on sanctions. We urge the next presidency to allocate sufficient time for relevant discussion in the Council on that issue.

Finally, I should like once again to voice our full support for conducting wrap-up discussions, especially for conducting them in open meetings of the Council.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Ukraine for the kind words he addressed to my delegation.

Mr. Corr (Ireland): I, like others, would like to say how glad we are to see you, Sir, presiding over our deliberations again today. I should also like to very warmly praise the dynamic and at all times courteous and efficient leadership by Colombia — Ambassador Valdivieso and everyone involved in the Colombian team — of the Council over the past month. It was a presidency marked at all times not only by efficiency but by consideration of different viewpoints and courtesy, thereby contributing greatly to the work of the Council this month. My delegation has greatly appreciated it.

I would also like to thank the presidency for this wrap-up discussion; it is a very useful and worthwhile initiative. Held periodically, it can allow the Council to take stock of the issues before it and of its approach to them. We therefore welcome it. I would also like to say that we found very valuable three particular themes that have been mentioned by other members this morning — these were referred to in the paper circulated before the meeting.

The first was the Princeton Club discussion on regional approaches to conflict management in Africa. Events such as that allow for an intellectual analysis and a conceptual approach to issues that can often be lost in the day-to-day details, and we felt that it was very useful.

My delegation would also very much like to welcome the open debate held earlier this month on small arms that led to the presidential statement we have just adopted, and also to congratulate the presidency on concluding work on the resolution on conflict prevention, in which, of course, Bangladesh was instrumental at an earlier stage, as it was throughout the process, in advancing the issue.

The point has rightly been made that all presidencies are interconnected. That theme emerged this month. Clarity of focus was provided by the presidency as we approached our work, in particular on issues such as East Timor and Kosovo, in view of the impending elections; the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which we discussed yesterday; and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which we discussed following the Framework Agreement of 13 August. That led to a presidential statement of support, which my delegation warmly welcomed.

In the context of the discussion on the Middle East, which was mentioned by several earlier speakers, Ireland felt that it was fully appropriate for the Council to hold the discussion, given the circumstances and the fact that members — and other Member States — were given the opportunity to state their views on the situation. We heard many constructive statements during the debate. We share the view that it was unfortunate that the Council was unable to speak collectively on the matter.

In terms of procedure, I would like to echo briefly two or three points that have already been made. First, my delegation welcomes the increasing practice by the Secretariat, which we experienced several times this month, of producing more written material in advance of meetings and restricting the oral presentations to providing, in general terms, an overview of the situation. This is especially relevant in the case of particular agenda items that appear regularly — monthly, in terms of the Council agenda. We would also tend to favour, if it were possible, the provision in advance of more detailed briefing notes, which at times might allow the Council to deal with issues more rapidly. This is not in any sense a criticism — we find the notes very helpful. Such a practice would be a purely procedural measure that would, perhaps, allow more substantive contributions by Council members and also enable the issue to be dealt with at times more expeditiously, given the number of speakers on many issues.

Secondly — and this has arisen before in our consideration of procedure — it is clear that certain items need not be addressed every month.

My delegation has taken the view that, as a general rule, items should be addressed only when there is something specific to report on. Otherwise, they can be dealt with under any other business. This was also a feature of this month, and it is something that we welcomed.

In conclusion, there is always — each month, but beyond that, in the ongoing work of the Council and in the interconnection between presidencies — a balance of substance and procedure. It is not always easy to achieve the right balance. We felt that this balance was achieved this month. For that reason, we warmly congratulate the presidency.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Ireland for his comments on the work of our delegation.

Mr. Doutriaux (France) (*spoke in French*): I wish to tell you, Sir, that we are very happy to have you as President for the second time in the course of this month. I would also like to say how happy we have been to work with the excellent Colombian presidency through the month of August, headed by Ambassador Valdivieso and all his team. I would like to thank Ambassador Valdivieso for the small note he read out to us to introduce today's public debate, which seemed to us to be very useful. There are just a few points touched upon in that note that I would like to comment on.

First, is the issue of the transparency and openness of our work to the whole of the membership of the United Nations. We believe that the current trend to greater transparency and more public meetings is a good trend, and my delegation is entirely in favour of that. There is a large number of cases in which we have everything to gain from acting in the most transparent way possible, including subjects on which political declarations are awaited on sensitive issues. In that respect, the public debate we had on the Middle East under the Colombian presidency was very important. As several speakers have said already, that issue of the Middle East remains open, and my delegation also shares some of the frustrations that have been aired here about the fact that the Security Council was not able to take a stand on that important question, which remains open, as the Council was reminded just now by the Ambassador of China.

However, within the framework of these public meetings, we can also have public meetings of the Security Council with the participation of non-members of the Council, but on subjects for which it is possible to have a greater degree of interactivity and a less formal structure. That kind of meeting, rather like the kind of meeting held yesterday on the Democratic Republic of Congo, is very much welcomed by my delegation: interactive public meetings, as often as possible. It is a good idea and should be employed more often.

Secondly, we are also in favour of increasing relationships between the Security Council and the troop-contributing countries on peacekeeping matters. We cannot assemble, develop or modify a peacekeeping operation unless we have full understanding, consultation and cooperation with the troop-contributing countries. From this point of view, my delegation would be entirely in favour of the implementation of resolution 1353 (2001), as the Ambassador of the United Kingdom and Ambassador Ward of Jamaica recently requested.

An interesting case is perhaps that of Timor. In the near future we will have to examine the evolution of the United Nations presence, in the context of independence and of after independence. We should work much more closely with the troop-contributing countries.

Thirdly, there was an excellent and very useful seminar at the Princeton Club on the regional approach, the regional dimension. I think it was very useful. The Security Council should more often work in concert with regional actors, as we have done several times with Economic Community of West African States for Sierra Leone and the region; as we have done for the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the signatory countries of the Lusaka Agreement; and, in an interdependent manner, with the upcoming presidency of Ireland in October, when we will hold another meeting between the Security Council and the signatory countries of the Lusaka Agreement, in order to give expression to the regional approach we discussed at the Princeton Club.

I believe it was Ambassador Mahbubani who said this regional approach could also be valuable for other regions beyond Africa. Perhaps he was thinking of Afghanistan, a question on which some countries have suggested the Security Council might meet the members of the "Six plus Two" group.

My fourth point relates to the sanctions policy, which was raised by several delegations who expressed the hope that the excellent report prepared by Ambassador Chowdhury might see the light of day and achieve consensus. We share this concern, expressed by several delegations.

I would like to comment on a point raised by one or two delegations, in particular the delegation of Jamaica, on the groups of friends. We believe that groups of friends, which include members and non-members of the Security Council — including, in some cases, countries contributing troops to a particular peacekeeping operation — have demonstrated their usefulness, but we are willing to continue exchanging views on this subject with delegations that would like to look further into their functioning.

I will not go on at greater length. I thank you, Mr. President, for having given us the opportunity to speak in public today on the subject of the methods of work of the Council.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of France for his kind words addressed to my delegation.

Mr. Amin (Bangladesh): It is a distinct honour and a privilege for us to have you preside over the Council meeting this morning. We give you our warm congratulations on the successful conclusion of the Colombian presidency of the Security Council, and we pay special tribute to Ambassador Valdivieso and his admirable team.

I am making this statement on behalf of Ambassador Chowdhury, who is unable to participate in this meeting.

This month's programme demonstrated much diligence. Under your leadership, we have addressed all issues regarding Security Council action or review in August. It is good that we have this wrap-up session today. It is good that we are holding this meeting in public, so that the United Nations membership and the public know how the Council members assess their own work over the month, consider follow-up and reflect on the future course of action.

Mr. President, you have invited us to focus on two themes: first, our experience in relation to the political relevance of the work of the Council, and secondly, the continuity of and follow-up to our work. I will remain within this framework in our intervention.

First, I will comment on our experience in relation to the political relevance of the work of the Council. Bangladesh has always stressed the need to make the Council more proactive. This is essential to assert Council's primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security. In this context, I would like to say that the Council debate on small arms, which was followed by the presidential statement issued this morning, was the right initiative.

In our last wrap-up meeting, on 29 June, we underlined that the Council should reflect on how to remain seized of the issues before it in a proactive manner, as a conscious policy decision, and not only as routine calendar events determined by the publication of a report, a briefing by the Secretariat or the renewal of a peacekeeping mandate.

It was in this spirit that we took up the situation in Burundi early in the month of June, although the Secretariat was not ready to provide everything, in order to respond to the situation as reported back to us by the Council mission to the Great Lakes region. We believe that the consideration of issues should be determined by the exigencies of the situation on the ground.

We do not intend to go through the substantive content of this month's programme, but I want to mention one more thing: the adoption yesterday of resolution 1366 (2001) was a landmark event. This is the first time that the Council has committed itself in a resolution to specific preventive actions. The process that was initiated in November 1999 under the presidency of Ambassador Danilo Türk of Slovenia, was followed up — and happily so — in July 2000 under the Jamaican presidency. A concrete result was achieved on the basis of the report by the Secretary-General (S/2001/574), a report on which Bangladesh was privileged to initiate action in June. We must pay attention to the implementation of resolution 1366 (2001). Several delegations, including those of Singapore, Jamaica and Ukraine, spoke eloquently on the significance of the resolution.

You also asked us to comment, Sir, on the usefulness of our participation in such intellectual forums as the Princeton Club meeting. We found the seminar to be immensely instructive. I believe we should have similar brainstorming — and, if I may say, soul-searching — sessions on some of the other complex issues before the Council, on which the Council has difficulty taking action. Encounters between academia and the bureaucratic world will certainly contribute to a better understanding of issues and to better decision-making by the Security Council.

The second point for our discussion concerns continuity and follow-up of the Council's work. The

usefulness of the monthly wrap-up meeting lies largely in ensuring continuity and in reflecting on the follow-up of our discussions and decisions. We know that Council decisions are not self-implementable. The Secretariat is in charge of overseeing the implementation and execution of those decisions, but there are matters that have to be followed up by the Council itself — matters to be pursued by the Council as a body collectively and by individual Council members.

At the last wrap-up meeting, we stressed two points in that regard. The Council should systematically follow up its decisions and see that necessary support is secured to implement those decisions. The Council should also ensure that the Secretary-General is given the human, material and financial resources to implement its decisions.

Continuity is particularly important for the initiatives taken by the elected members. We have mentioned the case of conflict prevention, where the hand-off from an outgoing to an incoming member has worked well. Our discussion yesterday in the informal consultations, the points being raised here today, the ideas floated in other discussions, such as the Council retreat and the "15-plus-15" luncheon, should not be left in the air — or in the summary of discussions that is circulated.

There are a number of issues already on the table — the report of the Security Council to the General Assembly, the reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council, the Council's relations with the press and the media and so on. All these issues need to be studied and transformed into operational decisions.

We believe, as we stated earlier, that the Council's informal working group on documentation and other procedural questions was established with that imperative in view. We have therefore been recommending that the working group should meet regularly to review the implementation of relevant decisions and to follow up the ideas discussed, and also to explore improvement of the working methods and documentation of the Council.

The Council should be responsive to the concerns of the United Nations membership at large on its working methods. One way would be to have its working group look into the documents of the General Assembly's Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council and report to the Council, so that when Council representatives participate in future meetings of the Open-ended Working Group they can provide specific briefings. We are happy to have heard support expressed for that proposal at today's meeting.

Finally, I wish to express our gratitude for the appreciation expressed by several delegations for the efforts made by the delegation of Bangladesh, and, in particular, by Ambassador Chowdhury, in various areas, especially, as Chairman of the working group on sanctions.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Bangladesh for the kind words he addressed to my delegation.

Mr. Jerandi (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): My delegation is extremely pleased, Sir, to see you again presiding over the work of the Council this month and also to thank you again for the initiative you are taking as part of the process of transparency that each one of us — as members of the Security Council and other Member States present here — would like to instil into the work of the Council. Perhaps it might even be possible one day to think of opening up this kind of debate to general participation by all Members that wish to participate. They are all actors following the affairs of the world, in particular with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security, and they would all like to know what the Security Council is doing from day to day to keep the peace and to maintain security throughout the world as well as to participate in a frank and transparent exchange of views on the appropriate way for the Security Council, representing the conscience of humanity, to deal with all matters of international peace and security. They would also like to say — and, indeed, why not — why the Security Council has failed, if it has failed, to shoulder its responsibilities in this particular area of its competence.

All my colleagues have discussed how the Council, under the presidency of Colombia and thanks to the skill of Ambassador Valdivieso and his very able team, has acquitted itself of its responsibilities on the items on its agenda during the month of August.

For my part, I would here like to refer to one set of issues that is a constant puzzle for many delegations and that is food for wide reflection. It is a simple

subject. It concerns the lethargy of the Security Council in regard to what is happening in the Middle East. The situation in that region is declining from day to day, but the Council constantly sends erroneous signals to the protagonists in the conflict. The Council sometimes hurries forward and skips certain stages in reacting to a conflict, and we note an incomprehensible activism, for instance when it comes to imposing or strengthening sanctions when more appropriate means could be used. But then we see the same Security Council totally ignoring other explosive situations.

Looking at the Council's agenda for the month, we note that the situation in the Middle East and in the occupied territories has been considered on four occasions: 20, 21, 23 and 24 August.

But what was the outcome of those four days of work? They resulted in false signals sent to the parties to the conflict and in a sense of desolation that has been building since 24 August, the last time the Council examined the issue in informal consultations.

My delegation will not dwell on the issue of the situation in the occupied territories once again, but would nevertheless like to underline that the Council has shown itself incapable of shouldering its responsibilities in this regard. That is regrettable in view of the tragic situation of the Palestinian people, and, in particular, in the light of the threat that today hangs over the whole region. The Council, all of us, and all Member States should ponder this seriously.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Tunisia for his kind words addressed to my delegation.

Mr. Koonjul (Mauritius): Allow me first of all, Mr. Minister, to thank you for presiding over the work of the Security Council today. We were also very appreciative of your personal presence during the open debate on small arms and the meeting on regional approaches to conflict management in Africa. Your personal contribution has been invaluable and underscores the commitment of Colombia to global disarmament and international peace and security.

Let me also express our heartiest congratulations to Ambassador Valdivieso on the professional and exemplary manner in which he guided the work of the Council in both informal and formal meetings, making the Colombian presidency a very successful one indeed.

The easy-going qualities that usually characterize the month of August at the United Nations, and in the Security Council in particular, gave way to some very important debates in the Council under the Colombian presidency. Indeed, we had very useful informal consultations on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and on Liberia, as well as an important and urgent public meeting on the situation in the Middle East, including the question of Palestine.

We regret, however, that despite the very wide participation and the intense debate on the latter issue, the Council was unable to agree on an outcome document. That is indeed very unfortunate given the gravity of the situation on the ground. We really have to address this issue in the future.

We commend you, Sir, for including in the programme of work for the month of August a number of issues that have required the continued attention of the Council. Issues pertaining to the situations in Sierra Leone, East Timor, Burundi, Kosovo, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo were discussed, and the Council was updated on the latest situation in those countries. Indeed, my delegation favours such an approach, where the change in presidency is seen as the continuation of a process aimed at advancing the Council's action on various issues rather than as a specific, separate and isolated event.

We support the idea of new approaches and new topics that can improve our working methods and enrich our deliberations. That is why we would like to place on record our appreciation to you, Sir, for holding the open debate on small arms, which followed closely the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The open debate was a very good opportunity to focus our discussions on some specific aspects of the proliferation and circulation of small arms and light weapons insofar as they have an impact upon the initiatives of the Security Council in the field of conflict prevention and resolution. We are pleased that our discussions led to the adoption of a presidential statement earlier today.

We now look forward to the report of the Secretary-General on ways and means by which the Council may contribute to addressing the question of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in situations under its consideration.

I also wish to commend you, Sir, for the initiative of organizing the meeting on regional approaches to conflict management in Africa, held at the Princeton Club. That meeting proved to be extremely interesting and most useful. The participation of members of academia and others allowed for an open, candid and frank discussion on the subject, which would not have been possible in this Chamber or in our own consultation room. The meeting provided us with new perspectives on approaches to conflicts in Africa, which we hope the Council will take into account in its future decisions.

We also appreciate the opportunity, which the Colombian presidency provided, for a very fruitful discussion on a comprehensive approach to the problem in Afghanistan. We hope that a consensus will emerge on the necessity to address this problem in a holistic manner.

The informal meeting that we had yesterday afternoon enabled Council members to be briefed on the exchange of views between some Council members and the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council, which took place on 13 June 2001. That briefing led to some very passionate discussions among members, which we hope will continue in the future. The topics discussed yesterday included simple issues such the speakers list and important ones such as the question of the transparency and accountability of the Security Council. It is indeed very important that we create a culture of learning through self-criticism in the Council, which would make our work more effective and would enhance our credibility vis-à-vis the broader membership of the United Nations.

I also wish to thank you warmly, Mr. President, for the Colombian hospitality that we have enjoyed throughout August. The coffee and sweets provided by the Colombian mission helped stimulate and sweeten the deliberations in the Council. We are grateful for that.

Finally, I wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the whole staff of the Colombian Mission, and in particular the coordinator, Ambassador Franco, for their very hard work and professionalism in making the Colombian presidency a success.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Mauritius for his kind words addressed to my delegation. I hope that all delegations have been enjoying the Colombian coffee or, if not, that they will be able to do so in the coming days.

Mr. Hume (United States of America): First, I would like to assure you, Sir, that I take every opportunity I can, here or outside the United Nations, to enjoy Colombian coffee. We are very grateful and pleased at your presence here and at the leadership of the Colombian delegation during this month. Here, we associate ourselves fully with the comments made by colleagues.

Fortunately, there have already been many interesting comments which give reason for reflection. Most of them, I think, are shared by most members here. That will allow me to be relatively brief in what I say. Not mentioning something does not mean that I disagree with it. I just want to make one or two comments on points that have already been made.

First, I would like simply to state — because it is already apparent from the discussion here — that the Council is constantly faced with a dilemma in how it organizes its work. Most members of the Council, or all who have spoken, have rightly thanked the Colombian delegation for organizing a meeting of members of the Council at the Princeton Club: someplace away from the United Nations. They have described the benefit of that meeting variously as brainstorming and soul-searching, but most members of the Council used the words "open" and "frank" to characterize the discussion that took place.

Most members of the Council who spoke have also said that there is a need for transparency in our work. I think that if we were sitting on red seats, as spectators, we would realize that there is a bit of a dilemma here in that a discussion that takes place at the Princeton Club may be open and frank and candid for members of the Council, but it is hardly transparent for the general membership. They may also wonder why private individuals who are not representatives of Governments on the Security Council participate in such a discussion and they do not. I say this entirely in the spirit of knowing that we all wrestle with this dilemma every day.

There were also questions as to why we got what I think were called "background notes", rather than the briefing notes that members of the Secretariat used

when they briefed us. In my experience in the Council, whether the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations sits at the foot of the table in this Chamber or at the head of the table in the consultation room, he essentially says the same thing. So I am not sure that there is a problem here with the background notes being inadequate.

But inevitably it is the same dilemma over transparency and being candid and frank, and over how individuals who participate in this work because they represent Governments can ask questions and take positions — which indeed they must at times — that are not official positions of their Governments. Otherwise how do we explore what it is we are doing and try to understand the challenges? Because the work is not easy.

So I would say, on the one hand, our delegation is very grateful for the discussion that you, Sir, organized on the challenges of regional peacekeeping in Africa. At the same time, I think that we will continue to wrestle with this dilemma of transparency and our obligation to the general membership — which the United States delegation feels very strongly, as I believe all of us here do — and how we combine this with having discussions in which we, as individuals seeking the truth or seeking peace, are able to ask questions and make statements and test ideas without them being labelled "the representative of the United States said", or "the representative of Norway said". And this inevitably is a challenge to which there is no easy answer.

My final comment, I hope, will be brief. It was mentioned by the representative of Norway that it would be better at times if we were able to issue statements that were focused and short. This is a theme that, as we all know, is frequently repeated in the consultation room as we go over our work. I would just like to share a comment that was used by a United States humorist at the beginning of a letter he wrote about 100 years ago. He explained to his correspondent, "I have written you a long letter because I did not have time to write a short one".

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of the United States for his kind words.

Mr. Eldon (United Kingdom): If I can paraphrase Ambassador Hume's last comment, I will just make a short statement today because you, Sir, do not have time for me to make a long one.

It is good to have you here, Mr. Minister, and it is good to see the truly personal interest that you have taken during the last month, both in the work of the Council itself and in the Colombian presidency. We thank you for that, and we thank you also for the work that has been put in to the presidency by the Colombian delegation, which, as I said to you last night, has been an extremely competent, professional and inspired operation. I think there are some lessons we can all learn from you. One of them is the continued attention that the Colombian team has given to time management. This is something that Ambassador Greenstock has been very concerned that the Council try to do: to improve the way in which it allocates its time — which, inevitably, is limited. I think we must keep up the effort to make sure that we do things as efficiently, as effectively and as quickly as we can — consistent with getting a good result.

I think it is entirely reasonable that if there are procedural issues that need to be addressed, or problems that are perceived, then the informal working group on documentation and other procedural questions should be asked to look at them. But I would say only — as I said yesterday, during our session in the room next door — that it is only fair to our experts on that working group that we ensure that, before we ask them to set off on a particular journey, they are clear about exactly the problem they have to solve. I hope that next month the French presidency will be able to play a facilitating role in clarifying what needs to be done, by whom and when.

I would also like to join others in saying that I think these wrap-up discussions have been useful and are useful. I think that we learn from what we do, and occasions such as this are quite useful to that process. But I would just caution against us and those who are sitting on the red seats, as Ambassador Hume put it, thinking that everything is dreadful simply because we are engaging to a degree in a little exercise in self-examination. I think that in quite properly drawing the lessons from wrap-up meetings of this sort, we must also bear in mind what the Council has done, as well as what it might not have done or is not doing. So I would hope that we and the wider membership will look at what we do in various wrap-up meetings from that perspective. I think it is quite important both for ourselves and for the standing of the Council in the United Nations.

Let me address just a very few specific points. I appreciate Ambassador Wang's reference to Afghanistan. It is a point that has been picked by others, too. That was an important focus, I thought, and one important outcome of it was that the Council indicated that it was looking forward to receiving in October ideas from the Secretary-General on a comprehensive approach to Afghanistan, and that the Council would revert to them shortly afterwards. This is a very important issue, and it is certainly our hope that the Council will be able to take some fairly definitive action on Afghanistan as soon as we reasonably can, later in the autumn.

This brings me to a point that Ambassador Lavrov raised about the Council's prerogatives vis-à-vis itself and vis-à-vis the other organs of the United Nations. I would like to say here and now that as far my delegation is concerned we have no intention of working for a creeping extension of the Council's jurisdiction over other people's business. But as we move on through the list of the various items on our agenda it is clear that many of them are multidimensional; many of them have facets that are not the Council's traditional business, but that need to be addressed if those issues are going to be dealt with properly. Particularly as regards Afghanistan — not least since the Secretary-General himself has indicated that he believes the Council should be in the lead — I think it is incumbent on us to pick up that particular baton and run with it as the Secretary-General has asked.

I would also like to echo Mr. Kassé's point, which has been picked up by Ambassador Doutriaux and others, about the need for us to make sure we keep our relations with the troop-contributors in good order. As I have said in the consultation room, I believe it is most important that at this particular stage in the proceedings we make sure that resolution 1353 (2001) is implemented fully and conscientiously. I know from what Ambassador Doutriaux has said that the French presidency — and I am sure the Irish presidency following it — will have that dimension fully in mind this autumn as we work our way through the discussion of various peacekeeping operations.

Finally, as regards groups of friends, I only want to echo briefly what Ambassador Doutriaux said in response to Ambassador Ward's comment. We believe that groups of friends have a very useful role; they provide a way of doing what it is that we all have really been talking about under the larger heading of transparency, that is, involving delegations with a real interest in a subject a little more closely in the work of the Council. But equally — again, as I made clear yesterday — the members of groups of friends have a responsibility to behave correctly, responsively and openly with respect to Council members themselves. I do not want to enter into the substance of all this now. This is a topic that has been on our agenda for many months. But I think it was worth just saying these few sentences.

And with that, Mr. Minister, thank you again. Thank you for the presidency and thank you for the coffee.

The President *(spoke in Spanish)*: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for his assessment of the work of the Council and, in particular, of the Colombian delegation's contribution.

I will now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Colombia.

I would like to thank the members of the Council for their constructive contributions and the positive attitude with which they participated in the debate on the agenda for the month of August. I also extend my thanks to the Secretariat team for their continued support throughout the month and for their professionalism.

I can also say that, thanks to the cooperation of the Council members, Colombia has achieved the four main objectives that it set for itself during its exercise of the presidency.

First, we have taken an important step in our consideration of the question of small arms in the Security Council. Following upon the open debate held on 2 August, we have adopted a presidential statement that incorporates the viewpoints of Council members and of the other Members of the United Nations who enthusiastically participated in the debate and made constructive proposals. This statement will guide the course of future positions which the Security Council will adopt on this topic.

Secondly, through the Princeton Club meeting, to which most of you referred, we promoted a debate on possibilities for and difficulties in a regional approach to conflict management in Africa, with special emphasis on West Africa and the Great Lakes region. Today it is my great pleasure to give all the members of

the Council, as promised, a final report that sets out the main aspects of the discussion. We have, of course, made enough copies for the countries that are with us today that are not members of the Council. We trust that this exercise will enhance the action of the Council and, in general, be a contribution to all United Nations bodies.

Thirdly, we have taken a first step towards a comprehensive approach by the Security Council to the situation of Afghanistan. Ambassador Valdivieso has told me that a very rich and closely focussed discussion was held during the informal consultations on 29 August. The discussions dealt with the elements of a comprehensive approach to the subject that will contribute to the non-paper being prepared by the Secretariat for October. We trust that this process will further a lasting political solution.

Fourthly, I would like to record my satisfaction at yesterday's interesting discussion on the report on the dialogue with the Open-ended Working Group on Security Council reform, which was presented by the ambassadors of Bangladesh, the United Kingdom and Colombia. Colombia believes in the relations between this Council and the General Assembly, particularly regarding this topic to which the Members of the United Nations attach so much importance. We, of course, agree that it is important to move forward in keeping with the dates and the programme that have been described here.

I would also like to say that we have made a genuine effort here in favour of transparency of the Council's work. We have achieved this through detailed briefings to countries that are not members of the Council, by continually updating our Web page and through the willingness of all our delegates to offer replies to and cooperate with any Member of the Organization making a request. This open meeting is undoubtedly also a contribution to the goal of transparency, as many of you have indicated.

Let me further point out that one of the concerns which has motivated Colombia from the outset — and this was very aptly highlighted by the United Kingdom — has been a concern for managing the time of the Council and administering its work well. Hence the importance of being rigorous in keeping to the agenda but also flexible enough to cope with unexpected situations as they arise.

This, for instance, is what happened with regard to the situation in the Middle East. No provision had been made for it in the agenda, but it was taken up with the appropriate sense of urgency dictated by the magnitude of the crisis in the Middle East, which is of concern to all of us. Throughout the Council's open debate and the individual statements by members, there were opportunities for each country to express its position. There were also many non-members taking the floor. I think about 37 statements were made on this topic. We agree that the lack of any outcome points ultimately to the complexity of the issue and the particulars of the situation in the Middle East. But we do hope that the Council will be able to make a unified and strong contribution to this topic of great concern for the international community.

Responding to what most delegations have said here, I believe this wrap-up exercise has also met the goals that we had set for ourselves. The comments and suggestions for the work of the Council are undoubtedly very constructive contributions. They will enhance the rigorous nature of the Council's work. We hope that these recommendations will be used to bring about a general improvement in the Council's working methods, a topic that has been of concern not only to the Council, but to the membership of our Organization as a whole.

Since we anticipate no further unexpected events in the remainder of today, the last day of August, I would like to thank all of you for your cooperation and your work. I welcome France, in particular its Permanent Representative, Ambassador Levitte, and wish them all the best in the exercise of the presidency of the Council during the month of September.

I remember that when I first had the honour of presiding over the Council at the beginning of the month, we did not expect the work to be quite so intense. The weather in New York during this time was rather hot. I think it was the most humid month of the summer in New York. Today the weather is a little nicer, the forecast says that an autumn-like climate is on its way, and we hope that a more comfortable climate will also prevail within the Security Council.

I am grateful to all members for their comments relating to the Colombian Mission, headed by the ambassador. I am very proud to say that our delegation's entire team has worked hard, in close cooperation with members and with the Secretariat. I

trust that whatever contribution Colombia may have made to the specific issues that have been under consideration will be of benefit to the cause of international peace and security which is, without question, the principal mandate of this Council, as set out in the Charter.

The Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4364

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 September 2001

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 4364th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private in the Security Council Chamber at Headquarters on Wednesday, 5 September 2001, at 4 p.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 4364th meeting, held in private on 5 September 2001, the Security Council considered the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"The Security Council heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Sir Ketumile Masire, Facilitator of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue.

"The members of the Council made comments and posed questions in connection with the briefing.

"Sir Ketumile Masire responded to the comments and questions posed by members of the Council."

01-52821 (E) 050901

United Nations S/PV.4365

Security Council

Fifty-sixth year

Provisional

4365th meeting

Wednesday, 5 September 2001, 6.45 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Levitte	(France)
Members:	Bangladesh	Mr. Amin
	China	Mr. Chen Xu
	Colombia	Mr. Valdivieso
	Ireland	Mr. Ryan
	Jamaica	Mr. Ward
	Mali	Mr. Kassé
	Mauritius	Mr. Koonjul
	Norway	Mr. Sjøberg
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Singapore	Mr. How
	Tunisia	Mr. Jerandi
	Ukraine	Mr. Krokhmal
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. MacKenzie
	United States of America	Ms. Connelly

Agenda

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

01-52809 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 6.45 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council will now resume its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the success of the preparatory meeting of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, held in Gaborone on 20-24 August 2001.

"The Security Council reiterates its strong support for the Inter-Congolese Dialogue and for the efforts of the Facilitator and his team in the field. It calls on all the Congolese parties to further cooperate with each other and the Facilitator in the constructive spirit of Gaborone to ensure the successful outcome of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue starting on 15 October 2001, in Addis Ababa.

"The Security Council stresses the importance for the Dialogue to be free from outside interference, open, representative and inclusive, and emphasizes the need to ensure adequate representation of Congolese women in the process.

"The Security Council encourages donors to provide further support to the Facilitator for the Inter-Congolese Dialogue and, in due course, the process of implementing a new political dispensation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"The Security Council urges all the parties to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement to press forward with the full and early implementation of that Agreement, including disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, repatriation and resettlement of the armed groups, and the withdrawal of foreign forces."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2001/22.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.